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[Illustration]

可愛い女の子に
攻略されるのは
好きですか？

Do you like
to be captured
by a cute girl?

3



GA文庫

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Prologue

High school girl Kawaraya Kokage was arrested for unlawful trespassing. The crime occurred at the garden of the Kitamikado Residence. Right as she was on her way to gather information about Mikado like she always would, she got caught on the sensors distributed about the grounds, and activated the security systems. After trying her hardest to escape the security team, tasked to protect the residence, she made it to the kitchen and stuffed her face into a pumpkin pie. She then proceeded to fall into the pond with covetous koi carps, and as a result of that, was arrested.

Shaking in fear with both her hands restricted by the bulky security team and illuminated by headlights, she felt like she was about to be abducted by aliens. The head of the Mikado family slowly walked towards her.

“Just when I wondered who dared to intrude in our home... It turned out to be the young Kawaraya girl.”

“Y-You’re wrong! Really! It’s a tragedy that this misunderstanding came about!” Kokage pleaded like her life depended on it.

Though she was arrested by a private individual, and not the police, a crime is still a crime, and getting caught by the Kitamikado Family might actually be worse, considering how much influence they had. At this rate, she’d rot away in a jail cell, her youth as a girl going to waste.

“Misunderstanding...?”

Like the demon of Hell deciding on the next path the souls of the deceased would take, the head asked in a deep voice.

“I didn’t sneak my way in here... I am actually lost! I panicked, thinking I would be late for school, so I accidentally passed through the garden here!”

“I do think our fence makes it a bit difficult to just accidentally pass

through though?”

The fence was at least five meters tall and electrified. You could even see the sparks flying in the midst of the complete darkness.

“I just accidentally climbed it!” Kokage emphasized.

“It sounds to me like it was all intentional?” Of course, he didn’t believe her for one second.

“I-It wasn’t intentional! It’s just become a habit of mine to climb things, something like that! I thought there might be some interesting information, so I felt the urge to climb up there! I really didn’t have any bad intentions this time! When I realized it, I had already lost my way in the garden!”

“So basically, you wanted some new scoop, and snuck in.”

“Uuuuuuu...” She found no words to argue against that.

Being driven into a corner, Kokage tried looking for a place to escape to, but she was perfectly surrounded. The target himself, Mikado, hadn’t made his way home yet, so she couldn’t plead for help from him either.

“I will confiscate this camera. We cannot allow any of what you’ve possibly seen to escape to the public.”

The head grabbed the digital camera out of Kokage’s hands, inspecting the data.

“Ah, that’s...” Kokage panicked a bit, and reached out towards the head with her hand.

“What?”

“Well, you know...I have pictures of other things in there, so it’d be troublesome if you confiscated everything...O-Of course, I know that I’m asking for a lot, but...c-could you maybe return it...?”

“.....”

Being met with nothing but a harsh glare from the head, Kokage procrastinated herself as she started crying.

“I’m sorryyyyyyyyy! I did it! But please, not the police! Please do not report meeeeeeeeeeeeeee!” She apologized in full force.

The security team was taken aback by the girl, as she rubbed her face on the ground. But, the head of the Kitamikado Family, who never allowed himself or others any compromise, didn’t even twitch an eyebrow. Not showing any compassion towards the intruder, the head just opened his eyes wide as he looked through the camera roll.

“What...is this about?”

“Eh”

“I’m asking about the meaning of this!” His shoulders were shaking with rage.

The head pushed the screen of the camera towards Kokage, showing her a picture of Kisa clinging to Mikado.

“Um...it’s a picture of Mikado-kun and Kisa-chan...?”

“What kind of situation preceded this.”

“I-I don’t know. When I arrived at the place, it already ended up like that.”

“Seems like I have to question Mikado about this...”

The face of the head looked like a horned demon. Kokage had no idea why the head of the Kitamikado Family, currently leading Japan’s political world, would show such a face. But, she could clearly feel like she had started something horrible.

At the Kitamikado Residence, the home office of the head. Decorated with scriptures dating back to the Muromachi period¹ was a Japanese room with the enshrined sword of the shogun from that time. In this room Mikado was facing his father.

“You...you are not in any sort of wicked and illicit relationship with

the Nanjou girl, right?”

With the aforementioned pictures right in front of him, Mikado's body froze up. It was the picture showing the moment right before they almost kissed each other. Gazing at the picture, it was almost as if he could still feel her warmth and breath on his face.

“The Nanjou Family...is the enemy of the Kitamikado Family. There is...no way that the two of us would end up in any sort of relationship,” Mikado asserted, as cold sweat ran down his back.

“Then, why are you embracing each other?”

“The ground led to us losing our footing. I got wrapped in Nanjou slipping, and she landed on top of me.”

The head furrowed his brows.

“So what you're saying is, it's just a normal accident?”

“Indeed.”

“You're not about to kiss each other?”

“Indeed.”

“You're not having regular sexual intercourse with the Nanjou daughter, right?”

“As if I would!”

“Mikado...say...you are a virgin, right?”

“No need to worry, Father. I am a virgin.” Mikado announced, gazing directly at the head of the family.

That was not a fabricated lie. And, this action seemed to have shown some effect.

“These confident eyes...they do not belong to a non-virgin...It seems like you are not lying.”

“I-Indeed.” Seeing that the doubt has been cleared up, Mikado sighed

in relief.

At the same time, the head put his rough hand on Mikado's shoulder.

"But...you understand, don't you? Even if it was an accident, any harmony between the two families is not allowed to happen. We cannot have the world suspect us in any way..."

"I will do my utmost to be careful..."

The head's fingers tore deep into his bones, forcing those words out of his mouth. That was how intimidating and scary the head of the Kitamikado Family could be. This pain that Mikado felt taught him that. The head would never accept this. He told him not to stray away from the right path. With a stiff body, Mikado left the office behind him.

"Haa...the digital camera I got from dad..."

Kokage trotted down the night road on heavy feet, her camera stripped of everything, including the data inside. Though she was released without the police getting involved, she was told there would be consequences. Although, she didn't know the details of that yet, so was left shaking in her boots.

Thinking about the immense influence that the Kitamikado Family boasted, maybe being arrested by the police would have been the safer option. Though she probably wouldn't be made into a bump on a concrete road... she was still worried. As Kokage was about to switch streets towards the resident district, a black car stopped right in front of her.

"...?!"

There were no buildings near her, so the car stopping was mysterious. The target of the car could only be her. As Kokage dashed in the other direction, the car followed her at a crazy speed.

"Fueeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeh?!" Kokage screamed in panic as she sank down on the ground in the middle of the road.

The car eventually arrived next to the girl, and the window of the

back seat rolled down. The one appearing with a stern expression and cold gaze was the Kitamikado Family's head. Even more than before, Kokage could spot wrinkles on his forehead.

"I'm sorry, I'm sorry, please don't kill me!" Kokage begged for her life.

"The Kitamikado Family would not resort to actions such as killing."

"R-Really?"

The head snorted.

"We'll just be using the surveillance network to secure any sort of proof of the Kawaraya Family's wiretaps and other works, and make sure that the entire family is put behind bars, never to leave again."

"Please nooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!" Kokage let out a shriek of despair.

Although she got away with her life, this result might just have been worse than being killed off. She couldn't bear to be the one who brought ruin to her entire family. And since the Kawaraya Family was nothing more than an intelligence agency, they couldn't do anything against the law.

"But, if you were to work together with me for Mikado's rich future, I wouldn't mind turning a blind eye to this incident."

"I-I will do anything! Should I clean the residence for you?! Carry Mikado-kun's bag?! Ah, I don't mind serving Mikado-kun as his personal maid! I'll do anything!"

Trapped in the spider's web, Kokage kept rambling on in a trance. To that, the head raised an eyebrow.

"You'll do anything...?"

"Y-Yes! Though... I've never done any assassination stuff, but I'll try! My ancestors seemed to have been involved with such work back in the Edo² period after all!"

“You don’t need to assassinate anyone. I just told you that the Kitamikado Family doesn’t resort to such dirty actions.”

“Thank you very much! Then, what else should I do?!”

She was desperate. She didn’t even realize what she was talking about.

“You were in the same class as Mikado, right? The daughter of the Shizukawa Family, and the daughter of the Nanjous should be in there as well.”

“T-That’s right...” Kokage swallowed her breath.

She was scared to the bone about the task imminently about to be bestowed on her, but she had no other choice except to rely on that.

“I want you to inspect Mikado’s romantic relationships.”

“Romantic...relationships...?” Kokage repeated the words she hadn’t expected in this situation.

“Though Mikado and the Nanjou daughter haven’t ended up in any illicit relationship yet, I want you to catch the secret that’s connecting them, gather proof of it, and report back to me.”

“Illicit relationship... Like feeding each other their brains with spoons?”

“Let’s not turn this into a zombie movie.” The head’s expression turned into one of agony.

“It’s not that weird, okay!? In the world of Ursa Minor³ Sirius Starman, crimes like that happen often! Brain trafficking violates the privacy of an individual on planet Sirius, and NASA has kept information on that—”

“I’m not talking about the universe. Do you plan on diverting the topic?”

“Uuuu...”

A single strike silenced Kokage. She didn't plan on changing the topic of anything or that sort, and just wanted to tell him some interesting information, but was denied.

"Basically, I want you to observe if Mikado and the Nanjou girl are actually in love or not."

"Ehhh?! Mikado-kun and Kisa-chan are going out?! Ehh, ehhhh? Why didn't you just say so?! Since when?! Did the two families finally reconcile?! Did they go on a date?! Please tell me!"

The head of the Kitamikado Family was bombarded with questions by Kokage, as her Kawaraya blood, as well as her girly interests, went wild.

"No... I'm trying to hire you here because I don't have enough information."

"I see..."

"Don't sound so disappointed." The head sighed. "...I really am bad at dealing with you people. But, I have to leave this to you just this once."

Kokage tapped on her own chest, brimming with confidence.

"Yes, just leave it to me! I excel at this type of work!"

"I know that."

"I'm even good at judging mystery circles!"

"I could not care less about that."

Apparently, it would prove difficult to pull the head of the Kitamikado Family onto the path of the universe. Since she was previously mostly ignored by Mikado himself, it must be in their blood, Kokage guessed.

The head cleared his throat.

"Additionally, I want you to support Mikado's relationship."

“So you’re telling me to become their cupid? I understand!” Kokage saluted.

“Not quite. I want you to make sure that Mikado and the young lady of the Shizukawa Family, Rinka-dono, are getting along fine.”

“So that’s what you mean!”

“Of course. Mikado and Rinka-dono are engaged after all. The fate of Japan lies on how well they get along.”

As the scale of the circumstances suddenly shot up, Kokage’s heart started beating wildly faster. She fisted her hands, and carefully asked.

“So... I will be the messiah of Japan...?”

“Well... I guess you could say that.”

For some reason, the head looked like he was in pain.

“If I fulfill this mission, I won’t get reported to the police, right? And the Kawaraya Family won’t meet any misfortune?”

“Naturally. Not only that, but as your reward should you succeed, you will be bestowed the title of [Executive Intelligence Officer] of the Kitamikado Family.”

“Executive Intelligence Officer...?” Kokage repeated those sweet-sounding words.

“Any information arriving at the Kitamikado Family concerning the political word will reach your ears first, and you will help in our war of information. For a family like yours, there shouldn’t be any better title right?”

He was right. After having snuck into the trunk of the car Mikado would always use, and observing his every step at school, receiving such a reliable source was like a dream. She wouldn’t have to resort to her old techniques, and just had to ask. The ideal world for a family like Kokage’s. Hence, tears built up in her eyes, as she announced the following.

“Yes...yes... I will accept this mission with the greatest honor... I am the happiest girl in the world... It seems like there was worth in using my allowance to buy a lucky stone from the Andromeda Nebula...”

“Sorry, but that was just a fraud.” The head of the Kitamikado Family closed the window.

The black car drove away, and it took Kokage until it disappeared for her to realize the heavy duty she had received.

1 1333-1573

2 1603-1868

3 A constellation

Chapter 1: The first joint operation

Chaos reigned in Nanjou Mizuki's room. Posters of her favorite recent gacha game [Sweet Blood World] were hanging on the walls, as well as older game posters she had put up, packs of pearls she had gathered while pearl fishing at an aquarium, pamphlets of cute maid cafes in town, fancy-looking packages of candy, everything she liked would end up on the wall.

She did have large pictures and photographs of Mikado hanging there, but every time she put some up, her older sister would confiscate them. Thankfully, she had the entire album saved, so she could still enjoy all the pictures on her smartphone.

Naturally, not only the walls were wrapped in chaos, but also the floor, shelves, and the bed itself. Clothes taken off and left alone, mangas read and left alone and packs of sweets could be found scattered here and there. Though the maids attending this room worked their hardest to keep it clean, Mizuki, with no great effort, would immediately revert the room's situation back to how it would always be. She herself felt no need to have the room in order.

Now, in the deepest part of this hidden land—the nest most comfortable for the person herself—Mizuki was yet again gazing at her selfie with Mikado. As she rolled around, the door opened without a sound and Kisa entered the room. To which Mizuki jolted up.

“Onee-chan~? How rare of you to come visit me! Did you come over to play~?”

Mizuki dashed towards her older sister in great joy, but Kisa moved even quicker. Slipping behind her and restraining Mizuki's movement with her arms, she approached Mizuki's eyes with a hidden weapon. But, she stopped herself right before it connected. Around one millimeter before Mizuki's eyeballs, the sharp end of an ice pick

waited. Mizuki tried to escape this deadlock, but she couldn't hope to stand a chance against Kisa, trained in assassination.

"Onee-chan, you got even better! What is this, what are we playing? Am I supposed to play dead now?"

"We're not playing, I'm seriously angry!"

"Yay! Onee-chan is angry! What amazing thing did I do now? I didn't even have sex with Mikado-kun yet... so something even better?"

"It's not anything amazing! And if you did, I would have buried you in the permafrost of the South Pole!"

"Ehh, then why? Are you angry about that time when I covered Mikado-kun's eyes and did the old 'Who am I~?' play thing? You see, Mikado-kun always blushes like crazy if you cling to him like that! He's soooo cute! I even hopped on his lap as well, ehehe~"

"You're trying to anger me even more, right?!"

"Yup!" Mizuki nodded energetically.

Normally, Kisa barely showed interest in her little sister, and would only do so if she was angry about something.

"Recently, I can feel some weird presence around. Like someone is peeking at me... At first, I thought it was some sort of pervert, but I could smell makeup and all that... That was you, right?" Kisa asked, as she put more strength into her hold on Mizuki.

Any bad responses, and Mizuki would suffer.

"I wasn't doing any of that! If I wanted to see Onee-chan's naked body, I'd just barge in your bath time!"

"I never said anything about the naked part! I'm asking if you were trying to gather some private information about me!"

"I wasn't~ If I had the time for that, I'd be chatting with Mikado-kun. Being on a phone call with Mikado-kun is way more fun~ Even yesterday, we talked for three hours! Mikado-kun seemed like he

really wanted to hang up, but I managed to keep it going for a bit!”

Kisa grit her teeth at Mizuki’s bragging.

“Why are you closer to Mikado than a classmate like me!?”

“Because he loves me?”

“He doesn’t!”

“Because boys prefer younger girls after all?”

“I’m still young as well!”

Kisa’s shoulders were heaving up and down, as she breathed heavily. At the same time, Mizuki clung to Kisa’s arms tightly wrapped around her neck.

“Somehow, when we’re in this position, it feels like Onee-chan is hugging me! Is this what they call a sister’s bond?!”

“Is there fly agaric growing in your head...?” Kisa muttered, truly terrified.

Using this opening, Mizuki slipped out of Kisa’s hold, and jumped onto the bed. Kisa herself gave up on even trying to be serious, and sat down on the corner of the bed as well. Still holding the ice pick though.

“Anyway, you weren’t the one peeking on me?”

“Of course!”

“You swear? If you’re lying, then I’ll send you into Earth’s mantle.”

“I swear! On my life! Nanjou Mizuki has not been peeking on you!” Mizuki saluted with a smile.

Though she was interested in becoming mankind’s first Earth mantle researcher, there was an event going on in her gacha game, so she couldn’t miss that.

“Then... who is observing me... the successor of the Empress of

Darkness...? Seems like I will have to send Sigma to find out..." Kisa muttered to herself as she thought.

On a side note, Sigma is the captain of the private Nanjou squadron.

"Now now, don't sweat the small stuff. Let's just play a bit! I gathered the pictures from the surveillance cameras the day Mikado-kun and I went on a date, so let's look at them!"

"This is nothing but torture, right?!"

"It's not though~ It's this thing called 'Going on about your love affairs', and all girls love that! Look, I have the picture where Mikado-kun and I almost fed each other with our mouths!"

"I'll burn it! I'll burn down your entire room! Didn't we have a flamethrower in the storage room...?"

"You'll burn down the entire house with that..."

Kisa left the room, walking down the hallway, as Mizuki chased after her with high speed.

Arriving at his classroom, Mikado secretly made his way towards Kisa's seat. He had to be careful now that the Kitamikado Family's head, his own father, was wary of his relationship with Kisa. He had no other method to contact her. He could technically inquire to Mizuki for this, but he didn't want to take any risks. Standing behind Kisa, he called out to her.

"...Kisa."

"Kya?!"

She let out a shriek, and jumped up from her seat. Turning around, she took a step back.

"Y-You were aiming for my life, weren't you?"

"I'm your classmate, not an assassin!"

"T-Then...you were trying to catch a whiff of my hair, right?"

“Who would want to sniff your... hair!” Mikado couldn’t immediately deny it.

To be completely honest, Mikado was greatly interested in the brand of shampoo that Kisa was using. But, openly stating that would bring shame to the son of the Kitamikado Family, so he held back his feelings.

“I... want to talk with you, just the two of us.”

“Eh, does that mean...?” Kisa’s face burned a bright red.

She obviously started expecting a confession.

“No, you’re wrong, okay?! It’s not like that!”

“I-I get it! No need to be embarrassed, just say it! If it’s you, Mikado, you can do it! I...I’m listening, okay?!”

“You don’t get it at all!”

Mikado himself felt his face burn up in a strong blaze, and stepped out of the room. Kisa kept a bit of distance, trotting after him. Her usual never-ending speaking and pompous tone disappeared somewhere as she kept her lips tightly shut, immediately averting her gaze if she met Mikado’s.

Cute. Incredibly cute, but he couldn’t enjoy her cuteness right now. He had to hold back his embarrassment. Whilst doing so, he pulled Kisa into an empty reference room. The inside was filled with bookshelves and documents, dust building up on the ground. The room seemingly wasn’t frequented often by other people, making it the perfect place for this secret conversation.

Kisa leaned her back against the wall, fiddling with her hair.

“H-Here... you can start. I’ll properly listen, so make it the best confession you could ever muster. The most romantic ever, so it’ll stay in my mind for eternity. I’ll kill you if it’s a bad confession.”

Kisa entered a waiting stance. Even though it was a misunderstanding, Kisa put insane pressure on Mikado.

“For starters... it’s not going to be a confession, okay?”

“What...are you talking about?”

—Is your head okay? Kisa added.

“Well, my father, the head of the Kitamikado Family called out to me. He seems to be wary about the two of us, so I wanted to talk about our next move...”

“So it’s... really not a confession...?”

“Yeah”

“Really really?”

“I swear on my name as a Kitamikado.”

Reality must have set in, as Kisa’s eyes started to burn strong with anger. Following that, she started stomping on the ground like a small child.

“I can’t believe you! Getting my hopes up like this, only to betray me right after! Can you still call yourself a man?!”

“You got...your hopes up?”

Kisa’s shoulders twitched.

“I-I didn’t, of course! I would never! But, a normal girl would surely get her hopes up in a situation like this! You are... the enemy of all women! The worst existence in the history of mankind!”

“Ehhhh...”

Mikado was wondering why she was going this far if she hadn’t gotten her hopes up. But, even if that wasn’t the case, she must have still been nervous, or so Mikado thought, as Kisa’s earlobes turned red as well.

Mikado coughed once to bring the flow of the conversation back on track.

“Anyway, my father is doubting me. That you and I... well, are in some illicit relationship. He pressed against me with that picture from back then.”

“Back then...?” Kisa tilted her head as she was slightly confused.

“You know what I’m talking about... Back when I was taking classes at the temple...”

“What’s so troublesome about pictures of our trip?”

“It’s not that! ...Well...”

Mikado was searching for words. He wanted to tell her that the picture showed the two of them a second before they were going to kiss, but it would be too embarrassing to say out loud. He was desperately looking for another way of phrasing it.

“There was a time when you... wanted to cure me, right? The action where our respective mucous membranes were about to touch...”

It ended up even more embarrassing than he thought. Naturally, Kisa blushed as well.

“A-Ahhh! A picture from back then?! O-Of course I remember! How could I forget, yes!”

Kisa panicked quite a bit, as she spoke in a tone she used rather rarely. As if she were trying to escape from Mikado, she pressed her back against the wall, eyes running all over the room. She pouted, emphasizing.

“B-But, that wasn’t a k-k-k-k-kiss or anything! It was only a method to cure you! E-Exactly! In order to ascertain if you were really back to normal or not! I had to check if you had a fever or not! My forehead is better than any thermometer in this world, you know!? It’s the manifestation of how great I am—!!!”

Kisa kept firing out words with her machine gun-like talk.

—I want to push her down and kiss her right now!

Mikado barely managed to hold back his desires after seeing such a cute reaction. He couldn't fall now. If he kissed her out of his own desires, it would spell defeat for him in the love game the two had. On top of that, this entire reaction of Kisa's might have just been a trick.

"Uuuuuu..." Kisa crouched down, as she let out a pathetic and embarrassed groan.

She hid her crimson red face with her knees and arms, her slender shoulders shaking.

—No... this isn't just some acting, right?

Realizing that, Mikado felt the strong urge to immediately dash out of this room to hide his own face. Although it was a rather soothing morning, the atmosphere at school felt like it was mid-summer.

It took at least ten minutes until they were more relaxed. Kisa herself seemed to have calmed down a bit, as she slapped her cheeks with her cold hands. But, she was still unable to look Mikado in the eye as she asked.

"A-And? Did you manage to deceive the head of your family?"

"I tried my best. About the kiss...a-and that we weren't sleeping with each other."

"O-Of course we aren't! We haven't even married yet! Nor are we going out yet! It's too fast! Way too fast for that!"

"Yet...?"

Didn't this mean she was hoping for this to happen once they were to go out, or so Mikado thought. His head was filled with youthful thoughts, but he couldn't keep dreaming now, and rather had to come up with some countermeasures.

"But... I didn't manage to convince my father. If there was a next time, it'd be over. He'll find out about our love game, and the entire family will get involved, for certain."

“Not good... If both families got involved, it'll be a gameover with no winner.” Kisa tightened her expression.

Unlike a normal girl, the fighting intent and pride of the Nanjou Family resided in her eyes.

“...Actually, I also got some rather concerning information. It might not be related to you, but I doubt it is unimportant.”

“What is it?”

“Recently, Kawaraya-san seems to be following me around. Since she was taking it a bit too far, I'm having my private squad look into it. Apparently, she was hired to look into the two of us.”

“Don't tell me... my father?”

Kisa nodded.

“Yes. My private squad found a location where the two of them have supposedly met before. I thought they were working together to uncover the secrets of the Nanjou Family, but it seems like I was wrong...”

“So he's having her... look into us...” Mikado's entrails grew cold.

Before he had even caught wind of it, the situation had moved in a direction even scarier than he had imagined. At first, only Kisa had been his enemy, shortly followed by new contenders like Mizuki and Rinka, whilst the greatest threat of the political world was behind his back up until now.

“At this rate...continuing the love game will prove dangerous...”

Kisa showed a nagging smile.

“Yes. Let's assassinate Kawaraya-san immediately.”

“What are you saying with a smile like that?!”

“Oh, you don't understand? Well, it makes sense, since every other human being is lacking in the intelligence needed to understand my

words, so I will keep it simple... Let's lure Kawaraya-san into a dark corner, and cut her up into eight pieces?"

"I understood what you meant from the beginning! Kawaraya is a classmate, okay?! Also, she might have just been the best person my father could have hired, she's not the one to blame here!"

Mikado tried to pull Kisa away from the idea of assassinating their fellow classmate, but the wrinkles in her forehead didn't disappear. Rather, her expression grew sterner, as rage started to spill out of her expression, making her feel like a demon lord.

"No, she has committed a grave sin. Kobayashi Issa¹ once said... Those disturbing the love game are to be bitten and minced by horses."

"I highly doubt he said anything like that! Don't put words in other people's mouths!"

Additionally, the original is from a dodoitsu² of his, called [Those disturbing other people's love are to be trampled to death by horses]. Though Mikado also found the original pretty questionable, he understood what it was talking about. He couldn't allow himself to lose the person he wanted the most, the relationship he desired the most, to be lost because of someone butting in.

Kisa put one hand on her waist.

"Then, what else can we do!? If we have another method besides killing, I'm all ears! See, there's nothing, right?! Don't worry, I'll just kill her without any pain!"

"There's no consideration for her being a classmate, huh!?"

"I do think I'm pretty kind, considering I'm not torturing her."

"This level of kindness is worth nothing!"

But, Mikado could only blame himself for having fallen in love with such a girl. He stood as the successor of the Kitamikado Family, who guides Japan to new light, so why did he keep thinking of such a girl as cute? The human heart sure is hard to grasp.

“There are other methods to clear up father’s doubts, you know? For example... how about we have a fight in front of Kawaraya?”

“A-A battle to the death with Mikado...? I wonder, can I properly kill you...?”

“I never said anything about killing, and why are you even worried! If we look that close, then we just have to show them that we actually hate each other. A verbal fight, or you could softly hit me, something like that.”

“Eh...? Mikado, you’re the type who wants to get beaten by girls...?” Kisa’s eyes opened wide.

“Don’t rephrase it to make it sound weird!”

“Y-Yes... it really is weird... getting happy as you get hit and beat by a girl... Wanting to be stepped on by me... But, I truly welcome it!”

“Don’t welcome it! You’re wrong, okay!? I’m not into that sort of thing!”

“No problem. Once I become the Empress of Darkness, I’ll properly teach you... And we can use this acting as practice immediately.”

“Listen to me! It’s just acting! Just to change Kawaraya’s opinion!”

Mikado’s body, having been trained under the strict Kitamikado Family’s regime, would surely withstand this, but that wouldn’t solve any problems. It would only make it more troublesome.

“I understand. Let’s fight like we’re ready to die.”

“I’m glad you understand...”

Though Mikado was a bit sceptical about what she meant by that last part, he didn’t want to get into any more detail than necessary.

As such, the first-ever joint operation between the Kitamikado Family and Nanjou Family began.

Mikado and Kisa returned with a difference of five minutes to the

classroom so that their classmates wouldn't have any weird ideas. On his return, Mikado went to check for the presence of Kokage as she sat in the corner of the classroom. She had her usual camera ready, gazing at Mikado. And not just that, she also kept a close eye on Kisa as well. No mistaking it, she was targeting the two.

Right as he saw Kokage's wariness slip for a fragment of a second, Mikado and Kisa nodded at each other, starting their first plan. Mikado was now walking along the window side, while Kisa wanted to step outside to the hall. They were slowly approaching each other. They would bump into each other and start their fight, Mikado guessed. But, contrary to his expectations, Kisa just stopped right in front of him, her index finger pointed at Mikado.

"I can't stand... that look in your eyes!"

She threw a rather soft insult at him. Mikado himself thought that he couldn't be blamed for his looks, but he had no other choice other than hopping on here. Hence, he put as much intimidation and pressure into his gesturing as he could and gazed down at Kisa.

"You have a problem with that...?"

"Look, those eyes! They're full of confidence, as if you're saying you're the king of this country! Eyes like you're looking down on humanity! Don't you know that I am the ruler of this universe...?!"

"Who's the arrogant one here?!"

More than the country, she was mentally ruling over the entire universe. But, Mikado's comment was completely ignored by Kisa as she approached him even closer, glaring up at him. The provocative gaze in her eyes, her reddened cheeks, and her plump lips, all led to Mikado's heartbeat accelerating.

"And before that, I don't like your face in general! What's with that face...? Um... you have two eyes, like seriously? On top of that, a nose, one mouth... I'm feeling sick just looking at you!"

"Aren't those features pretty normal?!"

"Normal is not good! It doesn't make you stand out! It's not cool, but

boring!”

“Ugh...!”

An ICBM missile hit Mikado right in the heart. Insane damage assaulted him as he held down his chest, blown backwards a few meters.

“Mikado-kun?! Are you okay?! What happened?!” Kokage jolted up in shock.

Standing up after being lent a hand, Mikado forced out a voice in the midst of his coughing.

“I’m okay... A wound like this is nothing...!”

“You’re coughing up blood though?! What kind of wound are we talking about?!” Kokage was left in panic.

It was a deep wound in his heart. Although Kisa’s verbal abuse was way too absurd, and he had to act like this in front of Kokage, the words ‘boring’ really stabbed Mikado in the heart. It would be no problem whatsoever to be told that by anybody else. But to hear them from Kisa’s mouth, it inflicted insane amounts of damage to Mikado.

That being said, no matter how unreasonable it was, he had to return to the fight. They had to have a fight now, and show it to Kokage.

“N-Nanjou as well... calling me boring... that’s not cute at all.”

“Eh...” Kisa’s eyes grew damp.

Her shoulders started shaking, and she bit her lip.

“N-Not cute at all... That makes sense... an honest Shizukawa-san is much cuter after all...” Kisa’s expression looked really hurt, and saddened.

—No, you’re cute! You’re seriously cute, okay?!

Mikado could barely hold himself back from blurting out his real

feelings. Through experiencing pain by digging into his hands with his nails, he stopped himself. His own tongue moved on it's own, so he had to bite down on it to stop it from moving.

“Cough...!”

“Mikado-kuuuuun?! You're spitting up even more blood now?!”
Kokage jumped up again.

The other classmates around were watching this verbal war, each of them with similar reactions.

“What...is this...?”

“Someone like us could never hope to jump in there!”

“So the world is going to end now...”

“I have to call my family!”

“I don't want to die yet!”

Despair filled the classroom, as the classmates were watching this spectacle from the sidelines. Some of them were screaming like Ragnarok was about to begin, and humans realized how powerless they were.

“Ufu...ufufufu... Angering me like this, you really must want to die, Kitamikado-san...”

“That's my phrase. The punishment for stepping on the pride of the Kitamikado Family will come to haunt you in the near future...”

The two of them flashed a confident smile, as they walked to the left and right of the classroom, separating. The ones having taken the most damage out of all of this were Mikado and Kisa themselves.

After that, the war between north and south continued just as intensely. During cleaning time, Mikado was grouped together with Kisa and Kokage in the biology room, and the battle raged on quickly. After Kisa cleaned off a desk with a dust cloth, Mikado elegantly ran his finger from corner to corner, gazed at the bit of dirt

and dust left on his finger, and narrowed his eyebrows.

“There’s still some dust left. Redo it.”

“Are you a mother-in-law?!” Kisa threw the dust cloth at Mikado.

By moving just slightly, Mikado dodged the cloth, and once again gazed over at Kisa in contempt.

“It should be Nanjou’s turn to wipe the desks, right?. You have the duty to perfectly complete the job you have been assigned. Go on, repent by wiping the desks in the entire classroom.”

“Huh?! If you’re that concerned about it, why don’t you do it yourself?!” Kisa’s shoulders were shaking in rage.

Mikado just shook his head in disbelief, crouching down to wipe his finger across the floor this time— Naturally, no dust on his finger.

“Look, this is what I call perfect work. And I have the duty of cleaning the floor, so I don’t have time to help you...you get me?”

“I don’t get it! Minding every single detail, so annoying! How can you call yourself a man if you’re that narrow-minded?!”

“Ugh...!” Mikado staggered.

Those calling themselves a successor of the Kitamikado Family were raised less as the sons of Japan, but more so as heroes. With his manliness in question, he felt a great shock. Not to mention that the insult came from Kisa.

—Wait wait wait, calm down. This is just acting. Kisa isn’t serious.

Mikado kept emphasizing inside his heart, trying to minimize the damage he received. If he himself isn’t kind, then nobody will be either. If he wasn’t careful, his heart might break right here.

“I think having a sense of cleanliness is a pretty important trait! So don’t be too harsh...” Kokage timidly tried to follow up.

As long as she was close to them, observing them, they had to keep

their operation going. This was the perfect chance to show how spiteful they were towards each other.

“N-Nanjou as well... how about you try working on that so-called feminine power you talked about before? Even if you’re a rich lady, sucking at cleaning isn’t very feminine, don’t you think?”

“I-I do have feminine power...” Kisa grew teary-eyed.

She put her index fingers together, as she pouted.

“I-It’s true that I’m not really good at making lunch boxes, I can’t sew, and I only think of stuffed toys and dolls as sandbags, but... I still am a girl! I-I like cute clothes, and so on!”

“Y-Yeah...you’re right. You are...a girl...” Mikado panicked.

This was more difficult than he had previously thought. He constantly received damage from Kisa’s insults, and seeing Kisa all depressed like that was equally hard to watch. This operation might just cost him his life.

“That being said, I’ll kill you, for having unreasonably insulted me this much!”

“Your jump in logic is unreasonable!”

Kisa jumped at Mikado with insane speed. With speed you wouldn’t expect from a girl like her, she arrived at Mikado’s chest, approaching with the hidden weapon in her hand. Mikado realized quickly enough, and stopped her hand.

—This hidden weapon had a poisonous glimmer of liquid on it, which dripped from the tip, spraying slightly at Mikado. Seeing that, he could feel his innards freeze in fear. Though he didn’t know what kind of liquid was drenched on the tip, since it came from the Nanjou Family, it couldn’t be anything healthy.

As he kept holding back Kisa’s hand, he brought his face closer, and whispered.

“H-Hey... you’re not actually angry, are you? This is just acting,

right?”

“Of course I’m just acting... I would have stopped after you were half dead...” Kisa spoke, as she continued putting force into her arm, trying to ram the syringe into Mikado’s neck.

On top of that, rough, stuttering breathing leaked out of her mouth. Most likely, she was around 90% serious. Rage was burning in her eyes, making them more beautiful than ever. With one hand, she held the syringe, while she caught on to Mikado’s other free hand which was trying to take away the syringe. Her legs, wrapped in tights, were rubbing against his as they struggled.

At the same time, Kokage tried to break in between them.

“H-Hey you two, no fighting~”

“Whose fault do you think this is?” “Whose fault do you think this is?!”

Still with their hands restrained by the other person, Mikado and Kisa gave a synchronized answer. To that, Kokage was perplexed.

“Eh...whose fault...?”

“Ah.”

The two of them came back to reality, and let go of each other’s hands. They had lost themselves in their act when they just kept going. Also, Mikado only now realized he was holding Kisa’s hand, so the heat came rushing to his head.

“W-Well, it’s all... Kitamikado-san’s fault!”

“No, it’s clearly Nanjou’s fault! It’s her fault for starting a fight because of something stupid like that!”

“It’s because you didn’t obey me, right?!”

“Because you do sloppy cleaning work like that!”

The two of them were fighting heartedly, dashing out of the

classroom.

“...What about the cleaning?! We’re not done yet! Mikado-kun! Kisa-chan?!”

Being left behind, Kokage desperately called after them, but to no avail.

“...Mikado-sama. Could you by any chance be in a fight with Nanjou-san?”

Basketball time during gym class. As Rinka sat down next to Mikado, that question was thrown at him. At first, he was wondering if he should just tell her the truth for now, but before that, he caught wind of Kokage’s presence a few meters away from them. Naturally, her beloved camera was hanging down her chest wrapped in gym clothes. As for the teachers, they seemed to have given up on warning her about it, as none of them said anything. Though Mikado felt bad deceiving his fiance, the risk of being heard was too big right now.

“W-Well, something like that.”

“What happened? If you are fine with me, I can at least hear you out.”

“No... It’s alright. Not that big of a deal, no need to talk about it.”

“Is...that so...?” Rinka lowered her gaze, looking slightly hurt.

Mikado felt horrible watching that reaction. She was even kind enough to give this sort of support, but he had to lie to her. Yet again, Mikado realized how kind of a person his fiance really was. Following that though, she quickly lifted up her head, back in a good mood again.

“This is quite the good chance, isn’t it!?”

“Eh?”

“Mikado-sama and Nanjou-san are having a fight right now... Basically, no matter how close I get to Mikado-sama, she can’t say

anything. I can create as many children as I want!”

“We’re at school, so could you maybe be a bit more wary about your choice of words?!”

Hearing this, Rinka put her index finger on her mouth as she tilted her head slightly in confusion.

“I don’t have to hold back to make children with Mikado-sama?”

“You’re not wary at all! That’s even worse!” Mikado felt his body burn up in embarrassment.

“Either way, I cannot let this chance slip at all costs. Mikado-sama seems to have become fed up with Nanjou-san, so she won’t be bothering us.”

“It’s not like I hate her or anything...”

Mikado tried to correct her, but Rinka got the jump on him, resting her shoulders against his. The gym uniform only went down half her arm, so he could feel her bare skin against his. Her snow white, almost transparent legs were pressed against his.

“H-Hey, you’re clinging too much...”

Mikado tried to protest and was met with a dampened gaze from Rinka as she looked up at him.

“...So I really can’t? Even when you’re fighting, you still love Nanjou-san more, Mikado-sama?”

“That’s not... really the case...”

Kokage was pushing her body forwards to get a better idea of their conversation, so Mikado grew flustered for a second. He couldn’t pull Rinka even further into the entire situation with Kisa. It was nothing more than kindness which had led to Rinka keeping quiet about Mikado’s feelings. If Rinka really felt like it, she could finish the love game immediately.

“Then, being Mikado-sama’s fiance, resting against you like this poses

no problem, right? There is no other hindrance standing between the two of us after all.”

Rinka pushed her body closer and closer to Mikado, smiling happily. The soothing scent of her hair tickled Mikado’s nose, stimulating his instincts.

“Do you hate it when I do this sort of thing, Mikado-sama? If so, then please tell me, and I will stop.”

“...I don’t hate it.”

“Thank god...I feel very reassured here... My heart is beating so fast...” Rinka spoke as her cheeks burned in bashfulness.

Being openly approached and shown affection by a beauty like Rinka, no man would ever hate that. But, Mikado was more scared than anything else. For a while now, Kisa had been shooting Mikado glares of killing intent while participating in her game. It must probably be different to jealousy and more similar to an angry gaze at seeing her future slave being stolen away.

Meanwhile, the enemy team failed to make the shot, so the basketball bounced down for a rebound, right into Kisa’s arms. However, instead of aiming to score a point herself, Kisa glared over at Mikado and Rinka, throwing the basketball right at them. Mikado tried to evade it, but being restricted by Rinka’s arms, he was not able to do so. Hence, the ball hit him straight in the face, sending his view flying backwards, up to the ceiling.

“Nanjou-san?! What are you doing?!” Rinka raised her voice in shock.

Kisa put one hand on her waist, lifting her free hand almost like she was admitting it was on purpose.

“Ara, I’m sorry. I was going to hit the enemy team with it, but I put too much force into my throw, so it flew towards Kitamikado-san.”

“Don’t try to hit the enemy team either! We’re not playing dodgeball!” Mikado had one hand on his aching nose as he protested.

“I didn’t have any ill-will, you know? Kitamikado-san probably just

looked like an enemy to me... Also, I held back and used a ball instead of a bomb, so you can't say I had any ill-intentions just now."

"You were clearly aiming for me! I can only sense ill-intentions here!"

"No, I really...didn't..."

Or so she said, but her eyes resembled those of a predator, projecting her killing intent onto your naked skin. Hence, Mikado tried to fall back, but—

"I will be the one to protect Mikado-sama!"

"?!"

His head was grabbed by Rinka at an abnormal speed and he was pulled towards her. Feeling an extremely voluptuous sensation hit his face, he was enwrapped in two mountains. Coupled with that was a sweet aroma that entered his nose, cutting away his reason for a short second. He wanted to escape this heavenly hell, but he couldn't put any strength into his knees. Rinka was too focussed on clinging to his head. Faintly, he could hear Kisa's shaky voice.



“Y-You sure have some guts... You two are now proper enemies of mine... It’s time to prepare for the public execution it seems...”

It was even less of a game of dodgeball now. And, once the Nanjou Family announced it, they would definitely do it.

“Rinka, time to run away!”

“M-Mikado-sama?!”

Mikado regained strength in his body and jumped up, pulling Rinka along after he grabbed her hand. Away from this battlefield looming with death and danger, and onwards to the light and hope waiting for them outside.

“How romantic... shamelessly running away with Mikado-sama like this in broad daylight...”

“This isn’t the time to be talking nonsense!”

Balls were flying at Mikado, who was busy protecting Rinka with all his might.

Like this, the fake war (which was 90% serious at this point) continued. When around a week had passed, Mikado was in a state of starvation and hunger. He was suffering from an intense lack of Kisa. He really wanted to approach her and talk to her, but he couldn’t since Kokage was still watching. Not even able to see Kisa’s smile, he was instead assaulted with harsh verbal abuse. Even the extremely well-built and trained body of a Kitamikado could not stand this attack. Coming home from special classes, Mikado staggered along the road, both his heart and body were tired.

“Are you okay, Mikado-kun? You look a bit pale around the face...” Kokage asked, walking next to him.

Mikado forced out a feeble voice.

“I’m okay... I did lose around ten kilos during the last week, but it’s all good...”

“You’re not okay at all! You have rings under your eyes as well! You look like an old man!”

“I’ve been properly eating and drinking. No matter how much I eat, I still stay as thin as I am right now.”

Kokage shivered in fear.

“That’s scary! You don’t have some alien parasite inside your body,

do you?! Maybe we should do an autopsy on you to make sure!”

“No we don’t! I’ll die for real if you do that!”

“Oh come on, it’s just once~”

“Whether it is one or a hundred times, I’ll still die!”

At least just perform a normal surgery, Mikado protested.

“No need to worry, a friend of mine is a really good surgeon. He’s pretty well known among the people talking about aliens like me!”

“He really doesn’t sound all too trustworthy anymore...” Mikado grew scared and took a step away from Kokage.

Unlike the Nanjou Family, the Kawaraya Family shouldn’t be resorting to any abducting but Kokage was the weirdest member of the family so Mikado couldn’t really put any trust in that.

“Anyway, it’s not a parasite or anything... I’ve just been a bit stressed out recently...”

“Stress...huh. It is quite the stressful time that we live in after all. Politics are being corrupted, the SNS are taking over, taxes are going up as well.”

“Listen... are you really a high school student?”

Her complaints and grumbling couldn’t be further away from what a normal youth like she should be worrying about.

“If that’s the case, then leave it to me! There is some good medicine which works against stress. Once you drink it, you’ll forget about all the bad things happening in your life!”

“Isn’t that medicine a bit too dangerous?! That sounds like it induces memory loss!”

“No no no, it’s not anything like that. You will even forget that you are a human after all!”

“Even worse than memory loss!”

Mikado at least wanted to remember his own race. To that however, Kokage muttered with a saddened expression.

“I’m sure that the greatest misfortune for humans must be being born as living beings forced into today’s society...”

“I didn’t need any depressing philosophy like that though...”

“But, I’m sure the beings most troubled by that are the folk of Ganymede³...Their bodies break as soon as they show sincerity to humans, so they can’t even be as kind as they want...That’s why war never ends...What poor beings...”

“I didn’t need information about a moon so far away either!”

But, he couldn’t say that this wasn’t actually happening.

“I bought too much of that medicine, so I have a lot of it stockpiled at home. I’ll go get some right now, so look forward to it!” Kokage dashed away.

“Take your time~”

Naturally, he wasn’t looking forward to it at all. Rather, he didn’t even want to be in the same room as that medicine, but he didn’t stop Kokage either way. Not being supervised by her for even a minute would bring him at least some respite. Not feeling a gaze following him for once, Mikado entered the classroom. Kisa had already arrived by then and approached him with a stern expression. Her shoulders were shaking in anger, as verbal abuse came flying out of her pouting mouth.

“Kitamikado-san, what was that attitude in class about?! Listening to my announcements without prostrating yourself, how arrogant can you be!? Do it right now!”

Her requests were as crazy as ever. But, Mikado ignored that, and put his index finger on his lips.

“Shh. It’s okay, we don’t have to fight. Kokage went home just now.”

“Eh... really?”

The wrinkles disappeared from Kisa's brow. Her expression softened, as the tension slipped out of her shoulders. Not many classmates had returned to the classroom yet, so the two of them didn't have to sit in their seats, and could instead exchange a few words as they gazed at each other.

“Um...it's been a while since we've talked like this... hasn't it...?”

“A-Ah, yeah...now that you say it...”

Mikado was insanely happy, but he didn't even know what to talk about. Although they were just acting, the time they had spent fighting had continued on longer than expected, and he couldn't even remember how they used to converse. Looking at the clock on the wall, classes would begin in ten minutes, and the realisation left Mikado in a panic. He probably wouldn't get a chance like this again for a while. He'd love to exchange contact information with Kisa, but asking himself would put him at a disadvantage in the love game. On top of that, contacting Kisa outside school would run the risk of being doubted even further.

In the end, after worrying for a minute, Mikado went on the attack with the information he had in mind.

“Apparently, the reason homo sapiens developed the ability to communicate was because of gossip inside the tribe, which regulated society.”

“O-Oh...is that so...?” Kisa blinked in surprise.

—Am I an idiot or something?! Why am I starting from 200 000 years ago?! It'll take another 200 000 years before we can exchange contact information!

The conversation went off-track through his slipup, and Mikado cursed himself. There were only five minutes left in their break. How could he catch up to 200 000 years of human history in five minutes?

“Mikado, do you belong to the homo sapien clique?”

“Homo sapien clique...? What’s that?”

“You don’t get even that? Do you like the older ancestors of homo sapiens, like homo erectus⁴ or even homo rhodesiensis?”

“I am a homo sapien, so I guess I’d be on that side...”

Mikado was lost on what they were talking about at this point of time. The only thing he knew was that their topic of conversation had jumped from 200 000 years ago to 1.8 million years ago.

Kisa crossed her arms, and snorted.

“I belong to the homo neanderthalensis⁵ clique. Or the so-called neanderthals. A struggle for existence and subsequently being destroyed by the homo sapiens, isn’t that really exciting?”

“I don’t care about a sadistic hobby like that!”

Looking at the clock, which signaled that class would be starting soon, Mikado fell into despair. He should have really started talking from the age of telephones, but at the time they were currently at, electricity hadn’t been invented yet.

—Shit, if only we’d arrived at that stage of evolution...!

Luckily, right as Mikado prayed for that, Kisa’s gaze wandered around the place and she continued.

“Talking about foolishness, there are also telephones. Ever since Graham Bell invented them in 1876, humanity’s ways of communication have moved forward immensely. But most of the world uses them for useless gossip to waste away time, don’t they?”

“She compressed 1.8 million years of human history that efficiently...?!” Mikado stared at Kisa in admiration.

“Compress...? Did you want to keep talking about the humans of old, Mikado?”

“No, not at all! I’m perfectly fine like this!”

He frantically stopped Kisa before they time-slipped back to the ancient times. If they went on for another 150 years, they might even arrive at the exchange of contact information.

Kisa looked like she couldn't calm down and played with her fingers.

"A-And, you know? From the standard voice call, the computer followed, and now we've made it to the smartphone. I think that's the greatest paradigm shift."

—Alright, we moved on 140 years!

Kisa's summarizing skill was amazing. Once again, Mikado fell head over heels for her.

"Now that you say it... It was an innovative invention. I can't imagine my life without smartphones anymore."

"Right? By the way, my smartphone is a special version developed by a company under the Nanjou Family's wings, which can even connect me to military satellites..."

Kisa held her smartphone in front of her mouth, catching glances at Mikado's face. The tips of her ears were blushing slightly. What she was saying was actually pretty terrifying, and having the phone of a high school girl connected to a military satellite was questionable for the safety of the country. That being said, there was something even more questionable in Mikado's head.

—Is Kisa... also trying to exchange contact information?

Or so thought, getting his hopes up, but he guessed she most likely didn't want to have a personal chat with Mikado by any means, and was just trying to get any sort of advantage in the love game instead. Even so, knowing they held the same goal, Mikado mustered his courage...For about one millisecond.

"M-My smartphone has a CPU in it with the same power as one of the best computers out there. It's still in experimentation, but I have to experience everything and as much as I can with it, otherwise we can't analyze anything."

“Ara, is that all your family has to offer? My phone is using prototype technology from a quantum computer, you know?”

And now, they were bragging about their smartphones. Instead of getting closer to exchanging contact information, they only separated themselves further. Shortly after, the bell rang and the classical literature teacher came in.

“Ugh... so we’ve run out of time!” Mikado grit his teeth.

“Really, it’s because you kept hesitating!” Kisa glared at Mikado, and returned to her own seat.

That night, Kisa had made her way home to the Nanjou Family’s residence and buried her face in her pillow right after she had taken off her uniform. With tears in her eyes, she muttered.

“Uuuuuuu...it’s because I kept hesitating...!”

Mikado must have wanted to exchange their contact information as well. How happy she would have been if she could have mustered up her courage and asked him for his phone number or LINE ID. However, she grew too embarrassed and couldn’t mutter a single word related to that.

Although it was just acting, this war had continued for far too long, and it had grown so intense that they might not even be able to return to normal. Mikado might even be too hurt by Kisa’s verbal abuse and instead choose the kind Rinka over her. As this possibility appeared in Kisa’s head, she panicked. She really should have killed off Kokage from the start, but if she acted now, Mikado would definitely find out that it was her doing. Then, he definitely wouldn’t forgive her.

“What...should I do...?”

As Kisa wondered and pondered to herself, she heard energetic footsteps approaching her room. The door was thrown open with great momentum, and Mizuki barged inside.

“Onee-chan, welcome back! What’s wrong? You look as dead as a

loaf of bread?”

“A loaf of bread is dead either way...” Kisa didn’t even have the energy to lift up her head.

She didn’t even have the time to play along with her little sister’s high energy but Mizuki just went on with her life, jumping onto the bed like a small puppy begging for attention as she showed Kisa her smartphone.

“Look look, I’ve been chatting with Mikado ever since I came home today!”

“With Mikado...”

“Yeah! Mikado actually has some cute emotes that he uses! Look, this cat’s rolling around, going ‘Nya~!’”

Having Mizuki’s smartphone right in front of her face, she had no other choice but to gaze at it. Shown in the chat weren’t just their messages, but also a picture of the boy. It must have been a selfie. With his back to the wall of the stylish western room and stove, Mikado held the phone up. Seeing the precious view of Mikado in his private clothing, Kisa realized something.

“This is...”

“Yeah! Amazing, right? I said I wouldn’t stop texting him for the entire night if he didn’t send me a picture, so that’s what he did! It really looks like he’s not used to taking pictures, but that’s also a cute thing! And he looks as cool as ever!” Mizuki kept talking in an innocent way.

She was jumping up and down on the bed out of pure happiness. In contrast to that, Kisa grew even more depressed. Her own little sister, still in middle school, was happily exchanging text messages and calls with Mikado, whilst the successor of the Nanjou Family couldn’t even ask for his contact information. Maybe she had just been thinking too much. Maybe she should have stayed true to her desires. But—

“I am Nanjou Kisa...the woman who lives in darkness...”

“Onee-chan?! Why are you sinking beneath the bed now?!”

“I want to be alone right now...”

“I understand that! Is it because I kept braggin?! Ah, don’t pull your blanket down there! Scary! What if you can’t come out again?!”

Mizuki desperately tried to stop Kisa, but she had already holed up beneath the bed. Once she arrived at her beaver’s dam under the bed, she felt secure. Mizuki on her part seemed to have given up, as her footsteps grew more distant and the sound of the door closing arrived at Kisa’s ears. Kisa crawled out from beneath the bed again, taking out her smartphone from her student bag and entered her hole again. In the midst of this pitch-black darkness, she opened up an album, looking at pictures of Mikado.

“Even I...have pictures of him...” She quietly muttered.

It wasn’t a selfie she had received from Mikado himself, but rather snap shots she had taken in the classroom. With Kisa’s smartphone, she could predict the target’s next actions through analysis, allowing her to secretly take pictures. But... she was still jealous of Mizuki.

As she bit her lips, her phone started vibrating out of the blue. Shown on the screen was an unknown number. Thinking she might as well crush the company of the salesman calling her, she accepted the call.

<...Hello?>

The voice coming from the speaker was very familiar to her.

“Eh?! Mikado?!”

Kisa jolted up, hitting her head on the wooden planks acting as support for the mattress. A shriek followed. Intense pain assaulted her head, but she desperately tried to keep her consciousness in check.

“Ouch...”

<Kisa?! Did something happen?! I heard a crazy sound just now!>

“I-It’s nothing...”

< Are you being attacked?! You okay?! >

“I’m fine...There’s nobody reckless enough to try and sneak into our residence anyway...”

She could not let Mikado find out that the future Empress of Darkness was hiding under her bed like a hamster. Hitting her body here and there on the way out, she managed to crawl out from beneath the bed. Sitting on top of the mattress, she could finally calm down a bit.

“U-Um...it’s you, right...Mikado? Why do you have my number...?”

Her voice was shaking to and fro as she was completely caught off-guard by the sudden call from Mikado himself. Her heart was beating like crazy and she grew worried that it might get transmitted over to Mikado.

< Well...Mizuki told me to ‘Call this number right now!’ via chat... >

“Mizuki did?!?”

< Yeah. I guessed it must have just been a bad prank, but I had nothing better to do... >

“...Mikado, you seem like the type to kiss Mizuki if she asks you enough times.”

< That’s not true! >

“I wonder about that? You might just think ‘Just once should be fine’, you know?”

< I’m saying that won’t happen! >

Mikado kept denying Kisa’s conjectures, but she just kept snickering. She tightly held onto the phone which connected the two of them right now, sitting on the corner of her bed rubbing her legs against each other. Never would she have imagined feeling this happy just from hearing Mikado’s voice. Because of their continuous fighting, she’d suffered from a severe lack of Mikado, but that made this

moment even more blissful. It was her very first phone call with Mikado.

“Hold on a second, I have to boot up my recording app.”

< So that you can keep them for later, huh... > Mikado grew a bit more wary.

“Of course! We always have to keep the love game in mind when we talk!”

She couldn't admit that she wanted to save this historic moment to enjoy it later. That would leave her at a detrimental disadvantage in the love game and more than anything else, it was really embarrassing. Swiftly clicking on the recording button of the app, she once again put the phone to her ear.

“Okay, it's started. Now I can take everything you say as proof for later~”

< So everything I say will be held against me?! Come on, this is just a normal phone call... >

“Just don't mind it. Before we go to court, it'll be your loss anyway.”

< So I lose either way?! >

For some reason, his voice sounded more energetic than usual. Was it because he got his hopes up? Or was it because he was truly delighted to be able to talk on the phone like this? Kisa didn't know, but she wanted this time to continue as long as possible. As soon as they were at school again, they would have to continue their fake quarrel.

“Um...would it be a good idea if I went ahead and saved this phone number?” Kisa asked, heavily embarrassed.



She was scared to be told no by Mikado, and worried that this might count as a sign of affection towards him.

<Y-Yeah. We need to be able to communicate without Kokage finding out after all>

“You’re right! It’s weird for my little sister to have more contact with Mikado than I, your enemy! So it’s only natural!”

< You can say that again... Why am I chatting with Mizuki every night...? >

Though, just this once, Kisa had to be thankful to Mizuki for having created such a wonderful opportunity. However, she couldn't let it stop there just yet and instead had to take it one step further.

As she played with the tip of a strand of hair, Kisa carefully opened her mouth.

"U-Um. I was thinking... We can't continue our date at school, since Kawaraya-san is always watching us, so maybe we have to change the location... What do you think?"

< So meet outside of school...huh? >

"Y-Yes..."

Mikado kept quiet for a second.

< ...A date? >

"It's not a date! Going on a date when we're not even going out! What are you getting at a misunderstanding for?! You want to go on a date with me that much?!"

< O-Of course not! A date between the Kitamikado and Nanjou Family, unthinkable! >

"R-Right?! This is nothing but a game! Just a game! We'll just meet outside of school, but there's no deeper meaning to it!"

Kisa had been standing the entire time out of nervousness and now she tried to get her rough breathing under control. Only after having Mikado point it out, had she realized. Even if she covered it up under the pretense of the game, it was nothing but a date. Not to mention that she herself practically invited Mikado out on one. She was so embarrassed she wanted to jump off a bridge. She wanted to time travel back and silence her past self with a morning star.

< ...Alright. Where will we be fighting? >

“Eh, you’re okay with that?”

<At this rate, the game will never come to an end, and that’d be troublesome for me as well>

“You might die, so are you really fine with it?”

<Why?! It’s not a physical battle, is it?!>

“Y-Yes...well...”

Kisa was surprised by the unexpectedly positive reaction, so she quickly tried to come up with a good location. The local shopping district was no good. They never knew when they could run into an acquaintance and Kokage would have no problems tailing them. That being said, any facilities owned by the Nanjou, or even Shizukawa Family were too dangerous as well. They had surveillance cameras which would record proof of their secret meeting. The only other possible choice was...

“Let’s go to the sea.”

<You want to drown me at Tokyo Bay?!>

“No! I’m not going to drown you or anything! I have a private cruiser there. Using that, nobody can bother us during our game, right? And once we’re out in the open sea, Kawaraya-san can’t tail us.”

That being said, Mikado was still a bit doubtful.

<Makes sense...but, that would leave me wide open to be abducted by you...>

“I wouldn’t do something brutish like that.”

<I mean, you did before...when you kidnapped me and took me to that deserted island>

That point Kisa couldn’t argue against. However, stepping down wasn’t what a Nanjou like her would do.

“I can’t pull off something unrealistic, you know?”

<No, since it's you Kisa, I fully believe you would be able to...>

"Maybe you should consult a doctor soon to get yourself checked out?"

<All just to twist reality?!>

"Anyway, I'll contact you once I know the day and location, so you can look forward to it!" Not allowing any further rebuttal, Kisa cut the call.

She tightly embraced the warm smartphone and took a deep breath. Her cheeks were burning hot. Though she ended up being a bit pushy, she managed to make a promise with Mikado in the end. She finally got to talk to him after this long break. That alone made her so happy that she dashed out of her own room.

Arriving at her little sister's room, Kisa jumped inside, leaping at her little sister.

"Ah, Onee-cha— Woah?!"

She tightly embraced Mizuki who was relaxing on her own bed.

"Mikado...Mikado just..."

She was too lost in her own thoughts and momentum, she wasn't even able to properly form words.

"Ah, so you got the call? Ehehe, must have surprised you, right~? You were really depressed, so I wanted you to cheer up a bit. You feeling better now?"

"Very..." She heightened her pressure on her little sister even further.

"I'm glad you're happy~ But, you know, if you keep hugging me like this, I won't be able to properly breathe anymore... Look, my bones are starting to crack. I feel like... Hey, are you listening? Onee-chan! I give up, I give up!"

Mizuki kept hammering her hand on the mattress until Kisa finally let go of her. Rolling around to the side of the bed, Mizuki had to retire

from the battlefield. She felt like she had been put into a deadlock by a fearsome crocodile.

“I wasn’t planning on killing you this time, okay?”

“Yeah, I know. The other times before, you were actually serious after all!”

Kisa ignored that comment and awkwardly continued.

“Well...just this once, I’ll give you my thanks. About the phone call. If there ever comes a time where I have to kill every single human on this planet except Mikado, I will kill you last.”

“You say it like you’re being kind, but you’re really not! On the contrary, it’s really scary!”

“So you want to be first then?”

“I’d rather not die at all!”

Quite the selfish little sister Kisa had.

“Then, what else do you want me to do? Like... I can give you a t-thanks...and prepare something.” Kisa scratched her cheek.

She rarely said anything like this, so she was crazy embarrassed. But, just this once, she had to be thankful. Hearing this, Mizuki’s eyes lit up and she pushed her body towards Kisa.

“Eh, really?! Hasn’t it been like ten years since I last got something like that from Onee-chan?!”

“J-Just hurry up and say it.” Feeling awkward, Kisa averted her gaze.

“Then, then! If Onee-chan wins against Mikado-kun in the love game, I want you to share him with me!”

“Share...? Like horizontally? Or vertically?”

“Scary! Not that!”

“So share his organs? I’d have to contact someone...”

“That’s even more gruesome! Mikado-kun will die!”

“Then what is it...?”

Mizuki ran her fingers across her plump lips, a gesture way too erotic for a middle school student like her.

“Basically~ Half of the week, I get to sleep with Mikado-kun. Onee-chan and I will be sharing Mikado-kun, in short. And of course, I’m talking about the naked kind of sleeping... fufu.”

“NO can do!”

“So the three of us together?”

“That’s even worse! I won’t hand over Mikado, okay!?”

Mizuki pouted.

“Ehhh, Onee-chan, you’re so stingy!”

“I’m not stingy! This is normal!”

“I’ll even pay you~!”

“What kind of girl would sell off her boyfriend for money!?”

Kisa yet again realized that, even after her eventual win in the love game, she still has to be wary about her little sister the most.

At 11 pm, Mikado stepped on the small Nanjou Family boat near the harbour. It was controlled by Sigma who he had met before during Kisa’s hospitalization, and they made their way to the cruiser offshore. Kisa was not present on this boat. Hence, him being alone with the captain of the private Nanjou Family squad made the situation extremely awkward.

“Really... Kisa-sama seems to have the wrong idea and think that I am some sort of all round bodyguard...” Sigma muttered as she controlled the steering wheel of the boat.

“It seems like she really trusts you. Have you known each other for a

long time?” Mikado asked without any hidden motives, only to be met with a sharp gaze by Sigma.

“No comment. The shitty Kitamikado kid doesn’t need to know that.”

“I see...”

He had wanted to soften this heavy atmosphere, if only little, but this reaction made it even worse. That being said, they weren’t on good terms to begin with, so it couldn’t be helped. As Mikado sighed, Sigma must have thought that she was acting a bit too cold, and shrugged her shoulders.

“Sorry, but this is my job after all. Once you’re married into our family, Kisa-sama can tell you everything you want to know.”

“I have no intent on marrying into her family though.”

Welcoming Kisa into the Kitamikado Family was the true goal of this entire love game. If he managed to reform Kisa to the way of light, the way of the Kitamikado Family, Japan would surely evolve into a wonderful country.

“I really think you’d be happier if you just surrendered to Kisa-sama. I’m sure she’s the type to do everything for her husband.”

“I really doubt that. If I lose in the game, I’ll become her slave. All that’s waiting for me is humiliation and continuous days of hell.” Mikado shuddered in fear.

He did truly love Kisa, but a Kitamikado could not become the slave of a Nanjou at any cost.

“Again, there’s no way that Kisa-sama would be able to make you a slave...”

“Eh...?”

“No, nothing at all! If we talk too much, we might just be killed by Kisa-sama.” Sigma’s body shivered as she gripped the steering wheel tightly.

Mikado felt like he was accidentally told something extremely important, but Sigma didn't elaborate any further on that topic, so he could just sit there in silence as his body shook slightly.

Eventually, he could see the shadow of a boat out on the sea. The closer they got, the more he could tell that it was a luxurious cruiser. Built with an elegant curve that generated a flowing silhouette, it had several windows indicating rooms on board. With the entire body being painted a strong white, it stood out in this dark night.

Sigma swiftly brought the small boat next to the cruiser.

"See ya. Nobody's bothering you, so you two just enjoy yourselves."

"You're not coming in?"

"I'll come greet you in the morning. If I watch you two any longer than this, I might start spitting sugar."

As Mikado safely boarded the cruiser, Sigma drove into the darkness. Looking out to sea from the shipdeck, the stars looked as beautiful as small jewels. With wooden furniture here and there on the deck, it looked less like a boat and more like a southern style residence. Following the light of the lamps, he arrived at a table on the deck, where Kisa was already waiting. She was wearing a vivid red and yellow one-piece which gave off a foreign feeling. Her shoulders were in plain sight and almost blinding, as were her almost revealed thighs. She had a hibiscus flower in her hair and a strong rouge color on her beautiful lips. Just seeing her like this was enough to leave Mikado breathless.

"Welcome, Mikado. I've been waiting for you."

Kisa smiled gracefully at Mikado, who almost forgot to become wary of her. The surrounding lights, the mood, the long distance from the land, several measures had been taken to lull Mikado into Kisa's trap. He wondered if it was really the right decision to walk right into the spider's web like this. Hence, he turned around on his heel and ran towards the water by the edge of the deck.

"H-Hey! Why are you going home?!" Kisa panicked, trying to stop

Mikado.

“Something urgent came up. I was wondering when the daffodils in the garden would start blooming.”

“Leave them alone! They’ll start blooming eventually!”

“Recently, I’ve been waking up around the time morning comes. At my age, sleeping through the night gets more difficult.”

“You’re in high school, right?!”

“Anyway, I’m going home. Even if I have to swim.”

“It’s at least 20 kilometers, you know!? You’ll die if you try that!”

“I’m betting my life.”

At the side of the boat, Mikado prepared himself for the departure. The sea was deep black, but it was much better than having to stay in this seductive atmosphere for the rest of the night.

“I see... so you saw yourself losing to my beauty, which is why you’re running away now.”

“Wha...”

As Mikado turned around, Kisa greeted him with a provocative smile.

“If you are fine with that, then feel free. I’ll just take it that the Kitamikado Family will run away from a possible defeat then?”

“Ugh... Making a fool out of me is one thing, but don’t insult the Kitamikado Family...” Mikado returned a glare.

“Then, come here. We were going to play a game of love, right?” The queen had asserted absolute dominance.

An insane, normally unimaginable level of charm emitted from her. This motivated Mikado, wanting to make such a beauty his own.

“...Don’t regret it later, okay?” He slowly went up the stairs towards the terrace.

“I won’t... No matter what the result may be.”

Did this mean she would be satisfied, even if she were to end up belonging to Mikado once morning came? Mikado thought so for a second, but quickly rid himself of that idea. It must be a bluff to heighten Mikado’s affection for her and completely seduce him. The Nanjou calling herself the Empress of Darkness would not hold such a pure loving heart.

“Now, take a seat. I prepared a very special dinner for us that comes from a faraway country my dear mother took under her control. Filled with despair and regret, it will taste wonderful.”

And as expected, Kisa’s words sure didn’t make her sound like a maiden in love. He could never forget. The fact that Kisa was not a normal girl. Her exterior might look more lovable than any girl, but her head was filled with schemes. Let down your guard only a little, and you will suffer. Hence Mikado had to mentally prepare himself as well.

The table was made of white keramik, imbued with a graceful flower pattern. The tableware at their disposal looked to be made of gold and silver, shining in the moonlight. The table itself had amuse-bouches⁶, a terrine made of vegetables, raw ham and fruit marianne, flounder and many other delicacies. Inside the crystal pitcher was a liquid, as light as the sun of a southern country.

On one side of the table, there was a sofa with a perfect view over the ship, fit for two people. Seeing this, Mikado grew even warier. They could have just eaten while facing each other, but he had no other choice except to sit down on the right side of the sofa.

Following that, Kisa sat down next to him. She had put quite the distance between herself and Mikado, pressing her body against the armrest of the sofa.

“...Why are you that far away from me?”

Even Mikado was hurt a bit by that. No matter how you looked at it, she was avoiding him.

“B-Because it’s disgusting!”

“That’s quite a quick way to ruin the date!”

“It’s not like you’re disgusting, Mikado. The idea of having someone exist next to me is disgusting. Humans are the most dirty beings on this earth.”

“Then why didn’t you just prepare two chairs?!”

“Because of the budget!”

“You talk about the budget after preparing an entire cruiser?!”

“S-S-S-S-Shut up okay!? Sweating all the small stuff doesn’t make you look like a man at all!” Kisa’s shoulders were shaking in rage as her face burned a strong red.

...Might this actually be...?

“...Are you...embarrassed?”

“Hya?! W-Why would I be embarrassed?! I’m totally used to this sort of thing! Why would someone like me show a temper on my first date?!”

Her shaky voice betrayed all her efforts of playing tough. She tried hiding her burning red face, shaking her hands furiously at Mikado. Her pride as the Empress of Darkness disappeared somewhere and she was now getting flustered about the weirdest things. Naturally, watching this cute gesture inflicted 100 million damage on Mikado. Even though the night breeze was rather cold, he could feel his entire body burn up like midsummer. After having suffered through her fake verbal abuse, seeing the real her was too much.

“That reaction makes me feel a bit embarrassed, you know...?”

“Don’t! I’ll just get more embarrassed as well!”

“And if you do that, then so will I...”

“Then I’ll get even worse! Pull yourself together Mikado!”

It grew, grew, and grew even more. Embarrassment filled the atmosphere, and their body temperatures rose as if they had a fever. Soon enough, they'd boil their blood and the rest of the water inside their bodies.

Mikado and Kisa sat on their respective corners of the sofa, hitting their cheeks with their cold hands to cool themselves down. What good would it do for them to KO each other inside the ring before the actual fist fight?

"T-Then, let's begin with our dinner."

Kisa pressed the switch on top of the table and the cruiser slowly turned, moving even further away from the coast. A white boat was now surrounded by the pitch black sea. The soothing sound of the waves was very pleasant to their ears, and the breeze hit them comfortably. With this scenery, the mood during the dinner would surely move in Kisa's favor. There was even some soothing music playing from a speaker set out on a nearby chair.

Mikado prepared himself for an attack from Kisa, which might come any time, but she showed no signs of doing so.

"This terrine sure is delicious. A lot of vegetables are in there. I'm normally not very good with gumbo, but this is doable." Mikado nodded along.

To that, Kisa glared at him.

"So you're saying this is better than my handmade cooking, and that you want this chef to make you food for the rest of your life, right!? How about you play a love game with them then?!"

"I just praised the good food! Why are you getting angry like that?!"

"By the way, the chef is a divorced man in his fifties. He does some weird dance while he's cooking, so pay attention to that."

"I didn't need any useless information like that!"

As they were exchanging idle talk like that, their dinner continued. Far away from any hint of civilization and free of Kokage's

surveillance, they didn't have to fear the Kitamikado or the Nanjou Family. At this rate, they might just enjoy this time.

Or so Mikado hoped, but the cruiser suddenly shook heavily, the deck and table trembling as if there was an earthquake.

“Kya?!”

Kisa's body was jolted against Mikado's. Her slender and soft self was stopped by Mikado as he embraced her. Her chest was pressing against him, a sweet odor reaching up to his nose and her beautiful hair had gotten messed up as it wrapped around his arm. Kisa took a second to separate herself from Mikado, her cheeks blushing.

“I-I'm sorry...”

“I-It's fine...”

Their body separated awkwardly on top of the sofa. The calm atmosphere was wrapped in chaos at the sudden incident, and Mikado felt his heart almost leap out of his chest. Truly not the time to enjoy a calm and collected innerself. At the same time as he thought that, the cruiser shook again in another direction. This time, Mikado couldn't keep his legs on the ground and flew towards Kisa.

“Funya?!” Kisa let out a cute shriek.

It took Mikado a second to realize the position he was in. Leaving out the detailed explanation, he had his face right inside Kisa's cleavage. Their sensation was out of this world, holding an intense volume. Since the collar of the one-piece was quite far down, his nose was caught right between the two mountains in front of him.

Her sweat and soft skin were right beneath him. On top of that, he could make out the scent of a graceful perfume and Kisa's own distinctive smell. All these things combined made Mikado feel like his consciousness was thrown into the depths of the universe. If he didn't get away soon, he would die. He'll become this beauty's plaything. His instincts were screaming to separate, but—

“Y-You can't move yet! It's dangerous!”

On top of the shaking boat, Kisa held tightly onto Mikado's head, pressing it even further into her chest. The impact and volume of her chest was enough to completely blow away any semblance of reason Mikado had left. His entire body was wrapped up by Kisa and he was on his way to suffering the most peaceful death by suffocation.

“Uoooooooooh!”

With the last ounce of willpower he had left, he managed to tear his body away from Kisa, but he quickly realized an irregularity whilst doing so. The boat itself was shaking furiously, but the plates on the table were not moving an inch. It was almost as if they were pinned down with magnets; they did not waver at all.

“At this rate, we'll fall into the water! Let's move into a cabin!”

“Y-Yeah...”

Mikado followed Kisa who jolted up from the sofa, going down the nearby stairs. The cruiser continued to shake, as splashes of water flew into the air. It was an amount comparable to a fire fighting hose being used and it splashed onto the two of them. The taste of the water in his mouth left Mikado with yet another feeling of discomfort. It wasn't salty at all. They should have been in the middle of the open sea, and not on a small lake, so why was it not salty at all?

On top of that, although it was just for a short moment and it had disappeared in the blink of an eye, Mikado saw something. In the shadow of a palm tree, something like a nozzle stuck out, shooting water towards them. As he held tightly onto Kisa's hand, about to hide below deck, Mikado's thoughts started turning around and around.

The basic premise of it all: Kisa, coming from the Nanjou Family, was always scheming. Hence, she wouldn't be moved just by any incentive.

There comes the doubt. Why would she have chosen a cruiser of all places for their battle? If the intent was for the two of them to be alone, there were countless other options. And now, there were these

various weird happenings and realizations going on too. Why are the plates on the desk not shaking? Is it just an illusion that the cruiser is shaking?

Conclusion: most likely, this entire cruiser is an attraction. According to what he had heard from Mizuki, there were movie theatres in this world which could reenact things like the water splashes and smells from movies, even motion like being shaken furiously could be achieved, and the cruiser was one such variation.

Having established the fact that Kisa herself was troubled by the supervision of Kokage, she had used that to her own benefit to invite Mikado into this trap. It was all to finally win the battle against her prey.

“...Mikado? What’s wrong, let’s hurry on inside!”

In front of the door of the cabin, Kisa turned towards Mikado, looking slightly worried. But, Mikado didn’t miss the predaceous light brimming in her eyes. First, Mikado had held Kisa’s hand to guarantee her safety, but now she was pulling on it herself, trying to lead him away.

“No, I...”

Mikado hesitated, but the door opened without someone touching it and the deck shook in such a way that resulted in the two of them falling into the room.

—Ugh, I’ve been had...

The door behind them closed, followed by the sound of the door being locked, and Mikado painfully realized how nonchalantly he had walked right into her trap. Many men might have fallen victim to this, but for Mikado who had fought Kisa several times before, he now realized the true game was just beginning.

They were greeted by an elegant atmosphere. On the walls were inset lanterns imitating windows that let in a faint light. The floor was covered with a thick carpet accompanied by satin curtains. There was a wine table as well that seemed to have lasted a few centuries. At

one of the wide cabin's corners was a shower room, but the wall separating it was transparent, not hiding anything. In the dead center of the room stood a queen-size bed, emphasizing the meaning of this room even further. The bed itself had a dome over it like the ones you'd see in fairy-tales, and from beyond the organdy curtains came the suspicious scent of smoke.

Having taken in this scent, Mikado felt his own head get dizzy. The blood in his body started to boil and his view grew warped. This is too dangerous. Though Kisa shouldn't have used any harmful drugs on herself, it was clear that it was some sort of aphrodisiac.

At the same time that he realized that, Kisa shuddered, her drenched one-piece clinging to her body.

"I'd like to change."

"Alright, I'll go wait outside..." Mikado headed towards the door, but it still wouldn't open.

"I can't take off these clothes alone."

"Then, what should I..."

Kisa sat on top of the bed, her back towards Mikado.

"C-Could you pull down the zipper on the back? I can't reach it on my own."

"W-Why don't you just call a maid for that?" Mikado took a step back.

Possessing an ancient and honorable origin, those who called themselves the successors of the Kitamikado Family were highly inexperienced with taking off the clothes of a woman. Just the structure of the clothing was a mystery and in a situation like this, he couldn't calmly figure it out either.

"There's no maid on the boat here. If I don't change quickly, I'll catch a cold." Kisa sneezed, as her body shook.

—This...I can't help it.

Mikado certainly didn't lose against Kisa's seduction, and he didn't do this out of his own desire either. It was just to help a troubled girl, and leaving the worried Kisa alone would go against the principles of the Kitamikado Family.

Telling himself these excuses, Mikado carefully put his hand on the zipper of Kisa's one-piece.

"Mmm..." A sweet moan escaped from Kisa's lips.



The more the zipper went down, the more her slender back shook. With more and more of her white skin being revealed, Mikado swallowed. On one hand, he wanted to see her entire body like this, but opening it all the way up would equally be a waste. With these contradicting desires filling his head, Mikado was entranced by the beautiful goddess in front of him. Eventually, the zipper was down fully.

“...Thank you...”

“Well...likewise...”

Being thanked by Kisa, he unconsciously responded in the same way. Mikado was lost on what he was even talking about, but he didn't have time to ponder on it, since the cruiser shook again. With a shriek, Kisa fell over towards Mikado. Reflexively, he embraced her, only to regret that action immediately after. Kisa's skin touching his hands and her slender shoulders were soft enough to blow away Mikado's reasoning immediately.

On top of that, Kisa didn't dare separate either, just clinging onto Mikado's shirt. The same went for Mikado, unable to let her sacred body escape from his arms. Inside those, Kisa slowly opened her mouth and an embarrassed, meek voice followed.

“U-Um...this cruiser works on a self-driving system, so it's just the two of us here...”

These words had the same detrimental impact of a bomb blowing up. Far away from any signs of civilization, it was just the two of them in their own world. Just by barely reaching out with his hand, he could make Kisa his own. It would spell defeat in the love game, but if it meant gaining the person he loved in return, it wasn't that bad of a trade.

“Mikado...” Passionate, dampened eyes were gazing up at Mikado.

Her half-opened and blazing red lips, her lovable tongue, her skin rubbing against his, everything of hers desired Mikado right that instant.

—I can't...lose against this...

By reciting sutra inside his head, Mikado managed to win against temptation. By becoming one with Eunatai, his thought process exceeded human problems such as temptation and flew off into the universe and the reason for being. However, before he could reach true enlightenment with Eunatai, Kisa's body was too soft to let him focus. Right as every fiber of his being was unable to hold back

against Kisa's temptations and his soul was about to be sucked in by the Empress, a change occurred.

They heard a wet, dripping sound coming from the deck. Following that, an ominous sound like something being pulled. The sound of footsteps was slowly, but surely approaching the cabin.

"...What is this sound...?"

"I-I don't know! Maybe a walrus jumped on board..."

"A walrus is visiting the cruiser...?"

"I've heard rumours about it before... At an illegal research facility, they managed to create a zombie walrus in an experiment, and night after night, it swims through the ocean, seeking revenge and sinking all the normies enjoying their lives..."

"At least come up with a better excuse..."

Mikado had guessed at first that it was Kisa's doing, but her pale expression, distorted by fear, spoke against that hypothesis. Then, it might be some uninvited intruder. Whether it was a zombie walrus, an eared seal, a penguin, or a dodo, he had to certify who it was, or he couldn't rest easy.

"Open the door, please. I'll go check it out." Mikado got up from the bed.

"I think it would be safer to just stay inside..."

"In the event that the other person is someone from a special unit, throwing one grenade in here would spell the end for us. Before it comes to that, we have to find out who we're dealing with."

In the training regime of the Kitamikado Family, there existed methods regarding how to deal with people like this, but it was also a good chance to escape from this cabin.

"...Okay, but please be careful."

Alongside Kisa's words, the sound of the door being unlocked entered

Mikado's ears. He slowly opened it and carefully exited onto the deck. And then, what was shown in his field of view—

A grotesque appearance you couldn't even put into words. Tentacles protruded from its body, wriggling along. A horrifying breathing sound escaped from what seemed to be the mouth, its eyes were a bloodshot red. It crawled along the deck with its four legs, leaving disgusting footprints on the floor. It wasn't an existence you could classify as human. However, it also differed greatly from any animal known to man.

"What kind of enemy was it...?" Kisa asked with a scared voice behind Mikado.

"A ridiculous enemy for sure!"

Hearing this scream of Mikado's, the grotesque monster lifted itself up, dashing towards the cabin at an insane speed. With seaweed spilling out of its wide, opened mouth, a lamenting scream echoed.

"It's running on two legs now?!" Mikado retorted, and quickly closed the door.

Following that was the sound of the monster hitting the door and collapsing to the ground. The door was shaken and hammered on until the sounds of footsteps slowly grew distant.

"W...W-What was that just now...?" Kisa shook in fear.

"It wasn't...a walrus... A demon? Or some evil spirit?"

"A-A-A-As if evil spirits actually existed! It's defying the laws of physics!"

"Humans can only try to explain everything with science. Doesn't mean that apparitions and such don't actually exist."

The Kitamikado Family strove to rule this world in the light, but they had deep connections of old with diviners and such. When making decisions during their rule and political maneuverings, asking for the will of the heavens happened quite frequently. Hence, he couldn't deny the idea of something supernatural existing.

Kisa slapped the palm of her hand onto the bed.

“A-Anyway, I’m saying that was a walrus! The mascot of the sea!”

“It felt a bit too aggressive to be a mascot...”

“It’s a battle-type mascot! It’ll burn the city down with it’s cuteness!”

“That’s not a mascot anymore, it’s a bomber! Also, you sure are scared, aren’t you?”

“I-I’m not scared at all! Not scared in the slightest! I’m just the same as always.”

She put one hand on her hip, trying to act tough, but her knees were shaking furiously and tears were building up in the corners of her eyes.

“What you’re saying and the way you’re acting are very different!”

“I can’t help it, can I?! If it had an actual body, killing it would be no problem, but I don’t know any ways of killing evil spirits!”

“I do agree with you on that... But, I see...that’s an unexpected weakness... Kisa, you’re actually scared of ghosts, huh...” Mikado’s expression softened.

“W-What is it...?” Kisa’s expression grew pale.

“Ah, nothing at all? I just thought you were quite cute for someone called the Empress of Darkness. Are you actually scared of the dark by any chance?”

“H-Huh? As if that’s the case! I’m perfectly fine right now!” She emphasized.

“Right now...? So you were scared when you were younger? Something like you couldn’t sleep alone at night when you were in middle school?”

There was a complete turn of situation with Mikado on the attack now. Though Kisa’s plan almost had Mikado resigning in defeat.

Suddenly, however, a shriek ran out, strong enough to rip one's eardrums apart. And as the window of the cabin blew open, the monster stormed inside. Shards of glass flew everywhere and a rotten smell filled the room. The unidentifiable monster crouched down on all fours, storming at them as it huffed for air.

"Kisa! Get behind me!"

Thinking this was a good chance to show off how cool he was, Mikado turned around to her. Kisa pulled the blanket over herself and hid.

"I can't see it!"

"What are you talking about?!"

"What I can't see doesn't exist! I'm the only one in this room!"

"What about me?! There's gotta be limits to how much you can try to run away from reality!"

"What might you be talking about? We're inside a tent, right? It must be. Once I get out, I'll be able to see the starry sky. But, it's night, so it's bedtime..." Kisa kept muttering to herself.

—Not good.

Mikado was met with true fear. Nanjou Kisa, with the brain capacity to rival the leading forces of Japan, had turned into an absolute mess. If Mikado didn't work against this soon, she might go past the point of no return.

"It's okay, Kisa. I'll protect you."

"Mikado...? Are you saying you were even trained in the magic arts...?"

"Don't make me sound like a messiah! I'm just a Kitamikado!"

Mikado turned towards the monster, dashing. He grabbed it's forelimb, flinging it away before it could attack. With that, the monster let out a scream and fell to the ground. The tentacles fell off

the beast, dropping to the ground. No...those weren't tentacles. In the pitch-black darkness before, he couldn't tell, but they were nothing but harmless seaweed. Every strand was slightly different in color and length, wrapping around the body with shrimps and other sea inhabitants mixed in.

"Hmpf!"

Mikado grabbed hold of one part of the monster, pulling on it. Like the geisha having her kimono band pulled off, the monster rolled around on the floor, and showed its true form. A wet suit clinging to a body with a well-endowed chest, as well as revealed thighs and the drenched hair that glued to the pale face.

"H-Help me..."

The monster— was none other than their classmate Kwaraya Kokage, wearing a diver's suit. It seemed getting up was too tough for her, since she just gasped for air on the ground.

"Kwaraya?! Why are you here?!" Mikado asked, to which Kokage let out a weak voice.

"I was...hiding at the bottom of the ship the entire time, but it suddenly started to shake... I tried my best to hold onto it, but my oxygen tank fell down, so I had to evacuate here..."

"O-Ohh...?"

What crazy persistence. This wasn't just on the level of a paparazzi anymore.

"I-I was about to freeze to death, so could I...maybe ask for some warm soup and something to change into...? Ah, maybe some brandy as well? I'll go take a bath as well to thoroughly warm myself up!"

"You're quite the choosing beggar for having evacuated here!"

"After the bath, maybe an ice cream would be nice? I love vanilla! But please not one with chocolate in there!"

"Weren't you freezing a second ago?! You seem pretty energetic to

me!” Mikado protested in disbelief.

With the monster turning out to be his classmate and the passionate love-game cancelled as well, all the tension blew away in a second.

“How dare you...force me to embarrass myself in front of Mikado...?”

A demon stood behind Mikado. He turned around stiffly and found Kisa glaring at Kokage like she had just murdered her entire family. She threw away the blanket she had covered herself with and took small steps towards Kokage.

“Maybe I should turn you into shark bait...”

“You a pirate now?!”

“We can do it now...it’s only us here, so there are no witnesses to bother us...”

“I-I-I’m really not as delicious as I m-might look! If you need bait, I recommend Mikado! He’s got more meat on him!”

“Why am I turning into shark bait now?!”

“Mikado, out of my way! I’ll drown her myself! In the Mariana Trench!”

“Stop! Don’t use any blunt weapons against your classmate!”

Kokage ran away screaming, still drenched. Kisa held a pillow in her hand, chasing after her. Mikado tried his best to protect Kokage from said pillow. The elegant time on the cruiser had disappeared elsewhere and all that was left was chaos.

1 Japanese poet

2 unrhymed non-metrical Japanese popular love song or limerick in the 7-7-7-5 syllable pattern

3 Moon of Jupiter

4 Extinct species of hominid that lived from the end of the Pliocene epoch to the later Pleistocene, about 1.3 to 1.8 million years ago

5 Extinct subspecies of homo sapiens, around until ~40 000 years ago – neanderthals

6 In restaurants, an **amuse bouche** is usually a complimentary bit of food that is served after a waiter has served you drinks.

Chapter 2: Maneuvering girl

Rinka knocked softly on the door of the empty classroom.

“...Shizukawa here. Can I come in?”

“Yes yes! Do come in!”

A rather loud and unsecretive voice responded, inviting Rinka to join the secret conversation about to begin. Wondering why there was even a need to sneak around, Rinka checked that nobody was watching her and carefully entered the room. Waiting inside was her classmate Kokage. As she walked towards Rinka from the windows, she was wearing her usual worry-free smile.

Rinka closed the door, and locked it too just to make sure.

“And, what is it that you wanted to talk about?”

“The thing is... I wanted to help you!” Kokage got right to the main topic.

“Help me...?”

“Yes! To keep it simple, I will become packing tape! A ‘150% clingy’ effect! Even a storm won’t stand a chance against me!”

“I really don’t understand ...” Rinka was left speechless.

Be careful of the Kowaraya Family— were words often spoken in the world Rinka resided in, but now those words finally made sense.

Kokage put her index finger on her cheek, and spoke up.

“Basically~~ Well, I’ll help you and Mikado-kun to become all lovey-dovey!”

“Eh... W-With Mikado-sama...?”

As the name of her beloved person appeared, Rinka’s heart skipped a

beat.

“From the head of the Kitamikado Family, I got a request, see! To get you two fiances closer together”

“Mikado-sama’s father said that...?” Rinka’s eyes opened wide.

“Come on! Don’t doubt me! I even recorded it, so listen!”

Kokage tapped on the screen of her smartphone. Following that, a male voice started to fill the room.

‘Additionally, I want you to support Mikado’s relationship.’

‘So you’re telling me to become their cupid? I understand!’

‘Not quite. I want you to make sure that Mikado and the young lady of the Shizukawa Family, Rinka-dono, are getting along fine.’

This was indeed a conversation between Mikado’s father and Kokage.

“Was it really fine to just record that...?” Rinka asked, clearly worried, which left Kokage speechless.

“Fueh? Why? I mostly record everything. It might become good material later.”

“The other person is Kitamikado-sama, you know? Five years ago, the person who tried to sell some secret recording of him suddenly vanished from the face of Earth. You don’t know?”

“Ah...? So I’ll be killed...?” Kokage’s expression clouded in worry.

“I mean...it should be fine... I think?”

The Kitamikado Family, who are praised for not reverting to shady dealings, wouldn’t kill her, but there are things out there worse than being killed as well.

“W-What should I do? D-Don’t kill me!” Kokage clung to Rinka with tears in her eyes.

“Even if you say that to me...”

“Won’t you become Mikado-kun’s wife in the future?! Please, I’ll do anything, so put in a good word or two for me!”

“I cannot just walk in there and ask them...”

As Kokage prostrated herself in front of Rinka, she was lost on what to do. This was her first time experiencing someone doing this, and her being a classmate made it even more awkward. Kokage used the sleeve of Rinka’s uniform to wipe her tears, and tapped herself on the chest.

“A-Anyway, if you leave it to me, I’ll make you two become lovey-dovey in no time! Tomorrow, you two will be love birds, kissing each other with no restraint!”

“T-That fast...?” Rinka felt her cheeks become hot.

“Three days later, there will be childbirth!”

“That’s a bit fast, isn’t it?! What kind of living being are we talking about?!”

“Six days later, and boom! ...Grandchildren!”

“Again, that’s a bit too fast, isn’t it?!”

Rinka grew worried that Kokage had a completely false impression of how human reproduction worked. Either way, Kokage pushed her body towards her as she continued.

“How about it, Rinka-chan? I’m pretty good at this, you know? Just use me all you want~”

Her classmate was trying to sell herself. Rinka grew even more anxious about her, as she wished she would treasure her body a bit more considering she was still growing. But, leaving that aside.

“That sounds like a wonderful offer...but, I have to decline for now.” Rinka slightly bowed as she declined.

“Ehhh, why?”

“The love I have for Mikado-sama is for me to deal with. If I can’t fulfill my own love with my own strength, I cannot call myself a Shizukawa. Using maneuvering such as this would make me a failure of a Shirase Girls’ Academy graduate.”

“Is that so...? I think that maneuvering with everyone else is even more funny though...”

“Also, if I really was ready to use something like that, I could just report the relationship between Mikado-sama and Nanjou-san to Kitamikado-sama...”

“Eh...?”

“N-Nothing at all!”

She got careless, and almost blurted out something really important. She still kept the fact that Mikado was in love with Kisa a secret.

Rinka stretched her back, put one hand on her chest and proudly declared.

“This is...a maiden’s problem, to face alone. I will definitely make this love bloom with my own strength.”

The confident and proud declaration rang through the otherwise empty classroom. With wide eyes, Kokage looked at Rinka.

“Woah... Rinka-chan, you’re so cool...”

“I wasn’t trying... to be cool...”

She felt her face burn hotly. Who could blame her? After openly admitting her feelings and intentions like this.

“Then...it probably would be better if I didn’t bother you... I thought of giving you some private pictures of Mikado-kun from the data I gathered...”

“Eh? Of Mikado-sama?!” Rinka’s shoulders shook.

“Yes. I’ve been looking into Mikado-kun for quite some time now. Ah,

there's no deeper meaning to that though!"

"So you really are... a stalker?" Rinka trembled in fear.

She might just have to call the police on her classmate.

"You're wrong! I just wanted information on the Kitamikado Family! And, as I was following him around all the time, I just happened to gather a lot of pictures!"

Kokage took out a large envelope from her student bag, handing it to Rinka. While feeling the heaviness of the envelope, she slowly checked the contents.

"...These are...!"

She was greeted by an overwhelming amount of pictures. Not just showing Mikado at school, but also him walking through the park, dozing away during the drive home from school, shopping for clothes and various faces of Mikado she hadn't seen before. She was absolutely lost on how Kokage managed to get all these pictures. There were even pictures of Mikado changing clothes. His well-built body alongside his dignified profile shined as bright as the sun.

"Ah... Ahhh... Mikado-sama..."

"Rinka-chan?! Why are you chomping on the pictures?!"

"Ah?! A-Apologies... I just lost myself..."

"How much do you have to lose yourself to turn into a goat?! Don't forget that you're human!"



Rinka quickly took out the semi-nude picture of Mikado out of her mouth, wiping away the drool. She realized she had to be more careful about only showing her most dignified side to the outside world.

“Please don’t mind me. This happens quite a lot.”

“Does it now?! Do you have an alien parasite inside of you?!” Kokage

closely inspected Rinka's body.

—She seems to be a stalker, but the good kind at least.

Rinka's views on Kokage changed. She carefully looked through the pictures in front of her.

“Every single picture is wonderful... it perfectly emphasizes Mikado's charm... A treasure of this world... What bliss... You seem very skilled.”

“Ehehe~ You think so~? Don't flatter me like that~” Kokage leaned backwards as she rubbed the back of her head in a flustered manner.

Normally, she would always be talking about things mysterious to Rinka, but now she was easy to deal with and quite lovable.

“I'm not trying to flatter you. This snap of Mikado-sama... Perfectly taken from a diagonal 45° angle! Mikado-sama is already plenty beautiful, but this angle makes him look the coolest! Not to mention the roses behind him! What a... tasteful picture.”

“Are you a sommelier?! A Mikado Sommelier, Rinka-chan?!” Kokage blinked heavily.

“I still have a long way to go before I can refer to myself in such a dignified way. Naturally, as his future wife, I understand Mikado-sama the most, but it seems like you also understand his charm, Kawaraya-san.”

“U-Um... thank you very much?” Kokage showed an expression filled with confusion.

Mikado being the greatest existence ever to have blessed this earth, and Rinka being the one who understood him the most, the highest accomplishment. No wonder Kokage would not understand what she was talking about, Rinka thought.

“But, I guess it'll be better if I don't help out. I'll just take the pictures and go home...”

“Please wait a moment!”

Rinka stopped Kokage with insane speed.

“Fueh?” Kokage was bewildered.

“Please, please support me in my endeavor!”

“Eh, didn’t you just talk about this being your own problem and so on...?” Kokage tried to pull the pictures away, but Rinka wouldn’t let go no matter what.

“I was too quick to decide! I didn’t know you had such wonderful pictures at your disposal, Kawaraya-san! You have more pictures of Mikado-sama, don’t you?!”

“I-I have lots... at least a thousand...”

“Ahhh...!”

Rinka yet again looked like she lost herself, wrapping her arms around her slender body, only to quickly grab Kokage’s hand.

“That means... just for instance, okay? You might have enough material to create a hugging pillow, or even a life-size figure of Mikado-sama, right?!”

“Even just hypothetically, that was scary! And your eyes are even scarier!”

“Really, just hypothetically! Okay?!”

“Yesssss... I think I do... so forgive meeee...” Kokage shook in fear as Rinka desperately shook her body.

Though Rinka hadn’t planned on scaring her classmate like this, it was still quite the sight to behold. As expected of a maiden in love, Rinka had already gathered quite the number of hugging pillows with Mikado’s pictures on them, but they couldn’t win against Kokage’s selection in terms of variety. Naturally, she desired it all.

“Thank you very much. Gathering someone like you as a supporter truly is reassuring.”

“W-Well, it would have been troublesome for me if you declined anyway...” Kokage still looked a bit nervous.

“Looking forward to working with you, Kawaraya-san!”

“L-Let’s do our best. I’ll support you with all I have!”

The two girls shook hands, and nodded.

Lunch break.

Having stepped out onto the highschool division courtyard, Rinka spotted Mikado in the shadow of the storage shed. According to Kokage’s information, Mikado has made his way there frequently as of recently. People barely lost their way there, and the scenery was beautiful, surrounded by trees.

—He must be trying to relax a bit in tough times such as these.

Thinking about the hard work her future husband was doing, Rinka slowly approached Mikado. She didn’t want to bother him by any means, but she had to use this precious information she had received from Kokage. She had to use this chance to close the distance between her and her beloved fiancé. Hence, Rinka carefully took a peek at him from the corner of the storage shed and called out to him.

“Mikado-sama, what are you doing?”

“Oh, Rinka?”

Mikado showed an expression like a small child having his hiding spot found, which made Rinka’s heart skip a beat.

“Are you playing hide-and-seek?”

“Hide-and-seek... Well, something like that. It’s been really busy lately, so I need a place to take a break.”

“I’m sorry... Taking away your precious break time.”

Mikado showed a wry smile.

“Don’t sweat it. You’re calming to have around, so you’re not bothering me.”

“What kind words you bless me with... You, who understands a wife’s feelings, are the best husband I could ever wish for!”

“I’m not your husband yet, though.”

“So that means you will eventually become my husband then!”

“That’s not what I meant!”

Rinka linked her hands in front of her chest, as if she was praying.

“Ahh, I cannot wait for that day to arrive...”

“Listen to me! Please, I beg you!” Mikado shook Rinka’s shoulders.

Rather than his pleas, the sensation of his hands on her shoulders were much more prominent in her head, as such her cheeks started to grow flushed.

“It’s almost... like Mikado-sama is trying to win me over.”

“What are we talking about?! I’m not doing any of that though!”

“It’s okay, Mikado-sama. I have already properly prepared myself.”

“You really don’t have to! Put yourself together, it’s barely noon!”

“You are correct... This sort of thing belongs to the night better...”

“Please, come back to reality...” Mikado lost the strength in his body as he crouched down.

Seeing this, Rinka panicked. Stressing her husband even more made her a failure of a wife. She had to heal him. He came all the way out here to look for relaxation after all. Having received a lot of back up from Kokage, Rinka also understood what topics Mikado loved talking about. She had properly prepared herself to let him enjoy himself.

“Ah, that reminds me. Have you seen the movie *Les Misérables*?”

“You mean the remake during that roadshow? I haven’t...” Mikado’s expression grew pale.

[Mikado-kun is bad with remakes! I saw him talking with a classmate about it, and he looked like he really hated it!]

Kokage’s words went through Rinka’s head. She was a bit sceptical about her listening in on the boys’ talk in the changing room, but she was long past the point of questioning the Kawaraya Family’s methods. What was important was information on Mikado.

“Not the remake, but the black and white version which was first shown in 1952.”

“Ahh, of course I saw it. What about it?” Light returned to Mikado’s eyes.

“I watched it the other day, and really enjoyed it, so I wanted to ask for your impression.”

Les Misérables. The original was written in french by Victor Hugo, and was translated into various languages, such as Japanese under the title ‘Ahh, cruelty’.

“Yeah, the original is already pretty interesting, but the adaptation in 1952 added a few new things to the script. Not just the protagonist Jean Valjean, but the poverty of the times back then was also really well portrayed, making me want to study the feelings of the citizens.”

Rinka nodded along to that.

“Now that you say it, they did add a lot of good characters in the adaptation. I personally enjoy the protagonist’s little sisters the most...”

“I feel that. After stealing bread for his poor family, he gets put into prison, while his little sisters wait for him... So heroic. I really wanted a happy ending, but the one we got is more realistic... It really teaches you that nothing in the world lasts forever... such a superb work of art. I’m pretty sure that Cosette counts as the reborn

little sister. This alone gives you some sort of salvation, I guess.”

Rinka had never seen Mikado talk so passionately about something. During dinner, he tries his best to add to the conversation to not make it awkward, but it definitely couldn't compare to this.

A snicker escaped Rinka's mouth.

“It seems like you really like that movie.”

“Y-Yeah, I guess.” Mikado scratched his cheek.

He seemed to have realized too late he was getting too into the topic. That was one side Rinka hadn't seen before.

“It's been a while since I've gotten to talk about a movie I liked. Thank you, Rinka.”

“Mikado-sama...! Such kind words...!”

Right now, only the two of them were present in this atmosphere. Mikado only looked at Rinka.

—Is this what a married couple atmosphere feels like?!

Rinka was filled with happiness. She had eternal gratitude towards Kokage for having given her such valuable information. She would have to eventually pay her back once she and Mikado got married.

That being said, this moment of bliss only lasted a short moment.

“...So you were here, Mikado.”

Hearing the voice of her greatest rival, Rinka grew pale. Kisa walked towards them from the passageway. With one hand on her waist, she looked displeased even from a distance. Rinka suspected they were still having a fight, and readied herself to protect Mikado if necessary.

“How... did you find this place?”

Even if you took a walk, you wouldn't find this isolated location that

easily. And, Kokage should have no reason to work together with the Nanjou Family.

“Um... well... w-with the scent! I found out Mikado’s location thanks to his scent!”

“Are you a dog?!” Mikado retorted.

“I can tell without being a dog! I can pick up Mikado’s scent even when it’s five kilometers away!”

“Now you’re just hunting me?!”

Rinka’s eyes opened wide.

“F-Five kilometers... the best I can do is one...”

“Rinka, don’t join in like that!”

“Hmph, a four kilometer gap is quite the difference, you know? Well, I expected just as much from the Shizukawa Family.”

“My sense of smell... is being belittled...?”

“No seriously, who cares about that...?” Mikado fell into despair.

Until just now, she was able to enjoy some relaxing idle talk, but it’s all gone to hell now after not even a minute. Believing this to be her rival in love’s fault, Rinka glared at Kisa. Naturally, the future Empress of Darkness would not bend under that.

“And, what were the two of you talking about? I feel like I heard something about a movie?”

“We were talking about Les Misérables.”

“Let me just tell you, the remake is absolute trash! I don’t care if you like it, Mikado, but the original from 1952 is much better! If you don’t get it, then stop watching movies, and watch those free videos with the normal populace!”

Kisa gave an intensely threatening look. She showed an extreme

difference in affection for the two movies.

“I-I... I also like the 1952 version...” Mikado added, slightly terrified.

Kisa blinked.

“Eh, really? That movie was really interesting, right!? Jean Valjean ending up like that, totally uncool! I laughed so hard when he was imprisoned!”

“Why?!”

“I mean, if he was really that good of a man, he could have escaped the police and not be put into prison in the first place.”

“Just what kind of image do you imagine when you think of ‘a good man’...?”

“A missile...? When he can... shoot down an aircraft... with his naked body...?”

“What kind of scale is this...?” Mikado gazed at the palm of his hand.

Just what kind of expression did he have whilst listening to this?

“But, it’s true that the 1952 version is really fun. I’m surprised you also wa—” Kisa stopped herself mid-sentence.

“What happened?”

Rinka thought something was off, so she looked in the same direction as Kisa, and saw Kokage behind the window of the school building. She must have been eager to see if the information she gave out went to good use.

Kisa averted her gaze from Kokage.

“It was the worst movie ever! If you don’t understand what makes the remake so good, you should just die in a fire!”

“That’s the exact opposite of what you just said though!” Rinka was

baffled.

“Really? I’m fairly certain I have always spoken the indisputable truth. I never once said that the 1952 version was at all interesting. Are your brain cells working alright?”

“Ehhh...” Mikado joined in on the confusing ride.

—What brought forth this sudden change? Rinka wondered.

Since this change occurred right as Kisa spotted Kokage, it must be in some way related to her, but she couldn’t grasp the details with her lack of knowledge about the situation. It might even lead to the reason Mikado and Kisa had been fighting so intensely recently.

“Also, the rival of the protagonist, police detective Javert is way too softhearted. No matter how much of a change Jean Valjean went through, not trying to catch him and unable to bend the law either, he’s completely useless! If it was me, I would have shot the protagonist to death, and then blown up the prison!”

“So you’ll crush both parties?! Also, why are you so obsessed with blowing up a prison all the time!?”

Kisa shrugged, and gave an arrogant snort.

“I mean, the theme of that story is the absurdity of society, right? That concludes that the entire system is corrupt, so you should blow everything up and rebuild it all. Well, the corruption and absurdity won’t disappear from just that, I guess.”

“Nanjou-san...”

“Kisa...”

Rinka and Mikado both blinked at Kisa. She in return just gazed at them in puzzlement.

“W-What?”

“Well... I was just thinking that you sure watched that movie with a lot of interest... you know so much.” Mikado said in admiration.

For someone saying it was the worst movie ever, she sure was reading a lot into it. It was completely different to Rinka, who just knew the basics in order to raise Mikado's affection for her.

"O-Of course! I am the personification of wisdom! Everything is inside my brain cells!"

"That's a bit gross, isn't it?!"

"It's not! The shine is like the seven prismatic colors."

"What does that even mean?!"

Watching the two of them break out into another verbal war, Rinka thought.

—I really can't hope to win against Nanjou-san yet... it seems...

For now, she decided to pull back and retreat.

"Kawaraya-san... you received an order from the head of the Kitamikado Family to survey the relationship between Mikado-sama and Nanjou-san, right?"

In the empty room at dusk, Rinka asked.

"Eh?" Kokage's body twitched in shock, right after she arrived.

There were no students present in the classroom. After ending up as partners in crime, they used this room as a temporary base for their meetings.

"O-Oh come on, sniffing out my classmates like that, why would I ever~?"

"Weren't you always following Mikado-sama around anyway?"

"Ugh... t-that's... a personal interest, so to speak! I was only asked to help you in your quest for love by Mikado-kun's father, nothing more!" Kokage waved her hands to deny Rinka's assumption, but she was clearly panicking.

Mikado and Kisa were acting weirdly recently. Without any real reason, they would start chewing each other out merely for looking at the other, nothing like how they had acted before. And, there was also the sudden change in Kisa's attitude as soon as Kokage was around. It couldn't be a coincidence.

"It seems like Mikado-sama and Nanjou-san have already caught wind of your surveillance."

"R-Really?! Why?! I tried my best to hide it!" Kokage screamed, only to quickly close her mouth again. "...Ah."

"I thought so." Rinka said, having found definite proof.

"Y-You're wrong! I wasn't surveilling the relationship between Mikado-kun and Kisa-chan or anything! And it's not like I'll get better standing in the Kitamikado Family if I pull this mission off that I got from Mikado-kun's father!"

"See, you're confessing everything."

"Ahhhhhh..." Kokage slapped her hand on the floor in disbelief of her own actions.

In the political world, it's often said that the [Mistakes conducted by the Kawaraya Family could lead to a country's destruction], but this was even worse than Kisa had anticipated. An information broker revealing information like this was unthinkable.

"U-Um...please...could you keep this a secret...?" Kokage asked Rinka with teary eyes.

Rinka nodded.

"Of course I can. However, I am not too sure you will be able to properly watch them now that they have caught on to you."

"Uuu...that makes sense... What should I do...? At this rate, Mikado-kun's father will get angry at me and exile me..."

"I don't think exiling is still a thing in today's times..."

“So will I be exiled from this planet then?! Will I get a one-way ticket to Mars, forced to build my own civilization?! I don’t wannaaaa! I have things I need to accomplish on Earth right now!” Kokage held onto a nearby desk, attempting to push herself up on shaky legs.

Rinka put a finger on her mouth, and started thinking.

“But, thinking about it in another way... Your eyes are basically Kitamikado-sama’s eyes...”

“What do you mean?” Kokage tilted her head, slightly confused.

“Basically, Mikado-sama is constantly being surveyed by his father now, and won’t decline any advances from me.”

“I see~ You are his fiance after all.”

“Yes... I wonder if we could use this to our advantage...”

“Mmm... is there nothing...”

As the two of them were starting to think,

“Okey dokey, leave it to me!”

“Kyaa?!” “Hya?!”

From beneath the teacher’s desk, Mizuki suddenly popped out, scaring Rinka and Kokage enough to make them scream. She stood in front of them, striking a pose like a superhero.

“Mizuki-chan has answered your prayers! Everything’s alright, because I am here!”

“Nobody called for you though!”

“Oho? Weird~ I swear I heard someone calling out to me.”

“M-Mizuki-san... since when have you been there?” Rinka’s heartbeat accelerated dramatically.

“Well, from the very beginning? You were always talking all secretly in here, so I joined you every time~”

“Eh, really?! I have no memory of that though... I feel like it was just Rinka-chan and I...”

“Then you got some severe brain damage up in that head of yours~!” Mizuki pointed at Kokage head-on.

“Oh no... I thought so... before you get abducted, you suffer from memory loss...” Kokage’s shoulders were shaking in fear.

“Calm down, Kawayaya-san. I don’t remember that either.”

“Yeah, makes sense~ I was playing games beneath the teacher’s desk after all!”

“Then you haven’t participated at all?!”

“You could say that!”

“No, you can *only* say that...” Rinka felt a bit dizzy, being forced to deal with this.

Unlike her older sister, Mizuki was innocent, yet even harder to deal with than Kisa herself. Mizuki came down with a step, bringing her body closer to Rinka as she grinned.

“And, I actually have a great idea~ A method to get Mikado-kun and Rinka-chan all lovey dovey in just one evening!”

“...What are you referring to?” Rinka took the bait.

“See, near the sea, there’s the Shizukawa Group shopping mall, right?”

“Yes?”

“Go invite Mikado-kun for a shopping trip there! At the same time, Kokage-chan will also be on her tour there, so Mikado-kun will have to take the date seriously, right?”

“A shopping date... with Mikado-sama...” Rinka spaced out while imagining it.

They had the support of both families, so they had made a few plans here and there, but they never went on a proper date.

“On top of that, we’ll have the employees there take pictures of Mikado-kun and ask them to support you because you’re fiances. If it’s the Shizukawa Group’s employees, Mikado-kun will have to act like a fiance, right? Basically, the shopping mall will turn into a giant cage!”

“A-Amazing...” Kokage muttered in admiration.

Mizuki’s plan was perfect without any possible openings in it, exactly what you would expect from the Nanjou Family. She was just a middle school girl, yet she thought of an idea Rinka might never have arrived at herself.

“And, finally! Once the shopping mall is closing up, Kokage-chan goes to the control room... like thingy, and locks you two inside! Passing a night together... you understand what happens after that, right?”

“A night together... with Mikado-sama... Ahh, you’re so bold, Mikado-sama... Haa huff...”

“Rinka-chan?! You’re drooling!”

“Ah... Apologies.”

Rinka wiped away her drool with a lace handkerchief. The situation she had envisioned was so stimulating that she had almost lost herself.

“Good idea, right?”

“It’s the best... With this, we’ll definitely win.”

“I’ll be tagging along on that day and supporting you from the shadows, so try your best!” Mizuki gave a peace sign.

“But, why would you support me like this?”

Being the younger sister of Nanjou Kisa, as well as holding affection

for Mikado herself, Mizuki should have no reason to help Rinka like this.

“Because I want to... make Onee-chan angry?” Mizuki showed a confused smile, as she narrowed her eyes.

Residing in her eyes was the desire to play around as much as possible, a strong glimmering light... no, darkness. Even her lovably red lips had an erotic look to it as she licked them. Rinka watched this, and felt a shiver run down her spine.

“Just kidding! It’s because I love Rinka-chan!” Mizuki laughed gleefully, walking away from the empty classroom.

On the promised Sunday, the mall was filled with people. Being reclaimed land, a wide open space was luxuriously used for this mall. With four floors in total, elevators were going up and down constantly. The stores gathered had men’s and lady’s clothes, miscellaneous goods, books, a clinic and much more to offer. Pamphlets were distributed, asking you to visit certain stores, and families made the surroundings noisy.

Mikado and Rinka were walking down the first floor of the mall, next to each other.

“Thank you very much for joining me on my shopping trip, taking time away from your free day.” Rinka gave a slight bow, causing her neat one-piece flutter slightly.

“I’m still in your debt, so I’ll do anything to repay that.”

Those were his honest feelings. He still felt horrible for not being able to reciprocate Rinka’s feelings, as she had shown him.

“Anything!? T-Then, could we... maybe hold hands?”

“A-Ahh... if that’s what you want to do...” Mikado awkwardly nodded along.

He could feel sharp gazes on his back, originating from Kokage. Naturally, Mikado quickly gave up on wondering why she was even here in the first place. She was everywhere, no matter where he

went. And since she was surveying him, he had to act like a proper fiance to Rinka. If not, he would be called to his father's room and asked 'Why weren't you holding your fiance's hand? Do you have someone else you like?', complicating everything.

"Then... please..." With stiff movements, Rinka reached out her hand.

Her snow white palm, almost like a beautifully drawn painting was shivering slightly. Yet again, Mikado realized how much he was loved by his fiance. The tension was transferred over to him, as he carefully took Rinka's hand.

"Ah..." With just that, Rinka's face turned as red as a cherry.

Mikado was taken aback by the soft sensation, and the returning grip that was heavily feminine.

"L-Let's go, shall we...?"

"Yes... I am... very happy..."



Seeing Rinka's blissful expression, Mikado could feel his own body burn hotter. His heartbeat accelerated. His fiancée was probably the only person who could rival Kisa in terms of beauty. And not just her looks, her personality was equally beautiful; loving Mikado from the bottom of her heart. It would be a lie to say Mikado didn't feel anything in regards to all of this.

The two of them walked as they gazed at the stores on their sides.

“It’s quite unexpected for Rinka to go shopping in such a place. I don’t feel like they have a lot of things you would use here.”

He wasn’t exactly making fun of the citizens’ lifestyle, but when it came to shopping trips for the Kitamikado and Shizukawa Family, they wouldn’t frequent a shopping mall like this.

“Mizuki-san told me about this. It sounded fun, so I wanted to try it out. This so-called... shopping date, was it?”

“E-Em... is this... a date?”

“Yes, of course it is!” Rinka looked a bit angered, but it made her look even cuter.

Truth be told, an adolescent couple consisting of a boy and girl walking down the shopping mall while holding hands, this could only be described as a date. Becoming aware of that, Mikado felt even more conscious of the girl next to him. From getting flustered, sweat started to build up on his hand, but Rinka didn’t allow him to pull it away.

“Can you let go of my hand for a second?”

“Are you planning on leaving me behind?! Did you grow tired of me already?!”

“Calm down, okay?! I just wanted to wipe away the sweat on my hand!”

“You don’t have to wipe it! Receiving Mikado-sama’s sweat is like a reward for me!”

“What kind of reward is that supposed to be for?!”

Rinka put the palm of her hand on her cheek and started thinking.

“A reward... for me being alive...?”

“Yeah... being alive sure is troublesome after all...”

She was a stylish beauty, but from time to time Mikado’s fiance really

was a bit hard to understand. Naturally, Rinka showed no signs of letting go of his hand. Rinka had the eyes of a dog about to be thrown out by its owner as she clung to his arm. In response to that, Mikado could feel sharp gazes from the people around them. Just by passing the stores, the murmurs of the employees arrived at his ears.

“The young lady and her fiance sure are lovely together.”

“The young lady looks so happy...”

“A beautiful man and woman next to each other, now this is wonderful!”

“He is the sun of the noble Kitamikado Group after all.”

“Young lady, I’m so envious...!”

Hearing these voices, Mikado felt like something was off.

“Somehow... I feel like they all know about us...”

“This mall is managed by the Shizukawa Group after all. In order to make you feel the most welcome, I notificated the entire place.”

“The entire... place...?”

It was basically the same as visiting the Shizukawa Residence. One misstep towards Rinka in one way or another, and the entire Shizukawa Family would know. On top of that, he had the information source of the Kitamikado Family, Kokage, trailing after him. Meaning, this date was observed by both families.

Mikado was assaulted by intense pressure.

“I-I see. We have to make this date a success...”

“Yes. Could we take a look at this store?” Rinka stopped in front of a boutique.

“Of course! Today, I exist only for your sake, Rinka!”

“I do not deserve those words, dear Mikado-sama...!”

The two of them entered the store. The inside had white walls and a white floor, already creating a plentifully good mood and lining up simple yet high quality western clothing. The assortment was carefully chosen apparently, as there were not many things displayed.

Two female employees, both wearing clothes of the brand, approached the two at the same time.

“Young lady and her fiance Kitamikado-sama! Welcome! What might you be looking for today?”

“We weren’t exactly looking for anything specific... I just wanted to... pick some clothes that are to Mikado-sama’s liking...”

“I’m not really familiar with this sort of thing, so I couldn’t tell you even if I knew.” Mikado scratched his head, feeling slightly apologetic.

Rather than fashion, he would be able to answer easier if he was asked about his favorite politician or wildflower.

“Acting on a hunch is perfectly fine. Just tell me which clothes leave you in shock the most.”

“I’d like to show you some restraint first and foremost!”

“Excuse me, please tell me which clothes highly raise your desire for breeding.”

“That’s even worse!

Normally, Rinka was the perfect personification of a Yamato Nadeshiko, but today of all days, she grew extremely bold. That being said, Mikado was still a boy, so his eyes naturally drifted towards the clothes with... a bit more skin showing. The employee naturally picked up on that, immediately going to pick them up.

“Young lady, how about this piece?”

It was barely acceptable in terms of public morals; a super short mini skirt. On top of that was a blouse leaving the shoulders open enough

to almost entirely reveal one's chest. Seeing this, Rinka's face turned red with embarrassment.

"This feels... a bit indecent..."

Weren't you the one who wanted this? Mikado wanted to retort, but decided to keep quiet.

The employee shook her head.

"By all means no, this is not indecent at all! Your fiance has gazed at these clothes with the eyes of a predator... so I think we should be good!"

"Oh my... with the eyes of a predator...?"

"You're wrong, okay?!" Mikado rejected their nonsense at full force.

Being perverted was an absolute no-go for the young man of the Kitamikado Family. He could not accept the fact that his eyes were filled with desire, if only for a second.

The employee whispered in Rinka's ears.

"Men are always riddled with desire. Wearing these two pieces of clothing... it'll be an easy win."

"Y-Yes, but... we still..." Rinka's voice grew timid.

"Still not, huh? What a troublesome fiance you have~ Is he impotent?"

"What I saw before one early morning spoke against that... What should I do?"

"Let's see... I can prepare something with a 100% chance of success."

"Thank you very much!"

Naturally, Mikado could hear everything.

"Could you keep the girls-talk to somewhere with no boys around...?" Mikado just felt like walking away at this point.

“My, you are quite shy for being so manly! Come on, try this on, young lady, together with your fiancé!”

The employee pushed both Mikado and Rinka into the changing room.

“Why do I have to get inside as well?! Are you crazy?!”

“Of course not. A date, especially a shopping date such as this, is made to deepen the bonds between boy and girl! You’ll be buying underwear as well, so you have to take a proper look! Or do you want to watch Young Lady’s underwear-clad figure outside, where other people can see it as well?!”

“I-Is that so? Even if it is to Mikado-sama’s distinct taste, I wouldn’t show my skin to anyone else but him... Though, if it was his order, then I would have no other option except to obey...” Rinka gazed over at Mikado. Her slender shoulders trembled, though Mikado didn’t know with what emotion.

“I don’t have any taste like that!”

“Seems like our dear fiancé is quite the fiendish type!”

“I told you it’s not like that! Also, I don’t even want to see her underwear!”

He ran quite the risk of reputation with those words. But, he wasn’t too sure if he actually wanted to see her in underwear or not. Though since he couldn’t allow any doubts to be born in this environment, he gave up and was pushed inside the changing room. The curtains were pulled closed and the employee passed the clothes and underwear inside.

With a beet red face, Rinka cast her face downwards and tightly hugged the clothes.

“...I am deeply sorry. I will finish changing right away.”

“Y-Yeah...”

Mikado turned his back to Rinka, on stand-by. He was currently

inside a space no boy was ever supposed to trespass. Being left alone with Rinka in this room, Mikado felt nervous. Although he couldn't see her, this space was originally made for one person. He felt Rinka's presence at his back who sometimes touched his hand or shoulders by accident. Additionally, he heard the rustling of clothes and the sound of the zipper.

Mikado directed his eyes to the ground and saw the one-piece, having been dropped to the ground. Following that was a white lace bra. Her body freed from any clothing gave off an even more intense scent which assaulted Mikado's nose.

Suddenly, Rinka wrapped her arms around Mikado's neck. The soft, naked sensation of her two mounds hit him directly on the back.

"H-Hey..."

Mikado could feel his face burn hotly.

"...Being alone here with Mikado-sama... I started to feel... weird..."

With an almost sulking tone, Rinka whispered directly into Mikado's ears. Her warm breath touched his neck. Since the naked girl would be seen if he ran away now, he had no other choice but to stay in this position. All he could do was try to survive this sweet punishment.

"Stop with this stupid... nonsense..."

"I don't care if I seem stupid. If this will make Mikado-sama look at me, then I don't mind."

Rinka's hands wrapped around Mikado's chest, slowly opening the buttons of his shirt.

"Wai— What are you doing...?"

"We're in the changing room, so Mikado-sama will have to change as well..."

"What am I supposed to wear in a ladies' store!?"

"Shh... Mikado-sama, they'll hear us outside..."

Her slender fingers slowly slipped inside Mikado's shirt. A soft, tingling sensation ran down his chest and stomach. Mikado managed to grab her hand, but she pushed her waist against his even further. Her warm breath was right next to him.

"Just... please, I know you don't like this sort of thing, so I won't ask for much... Only... to let me stay like this for a bit longer...."

"Rinka..."

The girl's voice was so meek and feeble, Mikado found himself unable to shake her away. All they could do was stay in this romantic and sweet atmosphere, containing only the two of them.

The announcement that the mall would be closed soon rang through the halls. Having finished their shopping and enjoying their day off, the guests left towards the parking lot while the employees were busy cleaning up. Finally, the wave of people vanished and as the mall was left in silence, Mizuki stood up from the sofa with great momentum, still with some ice cream stuck to her mouth.

"Now then! Rinka-chan must have enjoyed her date, so I guess it's time to act!"

Mizuki sent Rinka a chat message, calling her to the front of a sweets restaurant. After a few minutes passed, Rinka arrived, heavily out of breath. The reason for her beet red face must have been her rush to get here, or because she was enjoying the date with Mikado so much.

"Rinka-chan! Did you get Mikado-kun's phone?"

"Yes, I managed to borrow it so that I could add a picture to my contact on his phone!"

"Alright, then he won't be able to call for help!"

"What do you need from me? I don't want to make Mikado-sama wait too long..." Rinka glanced behind her.

"Well, I actually prepared a present for you, Rinka-chan! They are goods important to enjoying the 'Night Life' together with Mikado-kun, a tool necessary to make him fall for you!" Mizuki winked at

Rinka.

“Make Mikado-sama fall for me?! Unable to live without me for even one second, unable to leave our married couple’s sleeping room for the rest of his life?!”

“Y-Yeah. You sure are intent on turning Mikado-kun into a disabled, huh.”

“No, turning my husband into a disabled... I would never! But, having Mikado-kun unable to live without me would be ideal.” Rinka put her hands together, gleefully smiling.

“You’re just like Onee-chan almost, fighting really hard, Rinka-chan.” Mizuki laughed.

That being said, you had to be this crazy for Mikado if you dared to fight history’s greatest monster Nanjou Kisa for him.

—Mikado-kun sure is loved by some dangerous girls, huh.

Naturally, Mizuki didn’t regard herself as dangerous or troublesome at all.

“And, where is this present?”

Rinka was visibly excited.

“It’s pretty big, so I put it in a box! It’s around the corner of the accessory shop, so could you pick it up?” Mizuki pointed at one corner on the second floor, near the toilets.

“Thank you very much!” Rinka made her way there on quick feet.

After seeing her off, Mizuki went on to call Kokage. If she went along with the plan they made up, she should have made it to the control room of the mall by now. The security of the mall should have pulled back because of Rinka’s orders.

「Yesh! Hewow? It’s Kwaraya here!」

A panicked voice came from the speaker of her smartphone.

Following that, a shriek as if something had gotten stuck in her throat.

“Kokage-chan, are you eating dinner?”

「Y-Yes! I thought this might end up being a long mission, so I got some anpan and milk!」

“Ohh, sounds nice!”

「Yes, anpan is good for balanced nutrition after all. Something absolutely necessary if you want to be an astronaut!」

“Right, right! Anyway, could you put the doors down? So that we can lock Mikado-kun and Rinka-chan in the mall!”

「Understood!」

After cutting the call, the shutters went down, closing off all the exits. The entrance on the first floor, as well as ways to the parking lot on floors two and three... even the area with Rinka in it were shut off. If she was locked in here, she wouldn't be able to group up with Mikado again. While carrying the big box, Rinka was surprised by the shutters going down.

“D-Don't close them just yet, Mizuki-san! Call Kawaraya-san!”

“Sorry~ I just finished the call with Kokage-chan! And I can't contact her again, she might have just died!”

“She's not dead! The shutters are still going down!”

“Basically... I'm the one who died! Is this the world between the afterlife and the reality?!”

“What are you talking about?! Please open!”

Rinka tried her best to keep the shutters up, but she was unable to and now completely isolated. Since it was in a dead angle of the surveillance camera, Kokage couldn't see her either.

“It's okay! I'll take care of Mikado-kun in your stead!”

Mizuki put her thumbs up and walked away from the sofa.

“Mizuki-san?! So you betrayed me?!”

“I haven’t betrayed you or anything~ I just switched with you!”

This was a game after all. You could never let your guard down with the two Nanjou sisters, otherwise it could end fatally. As Mizuki arrived at the security room, she called out to Kokage who was still inside.

“Kokage-chan! Listen to this!”

“Fuah?! Waf if it?!”

In front of the monitor, Kokage was biting down on her anpan. She must really like it, because there was a great amount of them scattered over the desk.

“A UFO appeared!”

Hearing this, Kokage jolted up. The pack of milk flew out of her hand and scattered on the ground.

“Ehhh?! Really?! Is it the discus type, the cigar type, the flying pyramid type, or maybe even the sky fish type?!”

Mizuki was a bit flustered after being confronted with professional terms, but she just used the first term she could think of.

“Umm... it was the Instant Noodles type!”

“Instant Noodles?! That’s super rare!”

“Right?! It’s SSR! You can’t miss this! It even scattered green seaweed everywhere!”

“What?! What is their goal... Where did it go?!”

“It flew towards the school!”

“Thank you for the information! I’ll be departing right now!”

Kokage grabbed the keys and dashed out of the room. This left Mizuki alone, gazing at the monitors in front of her. She watched as Kokage dashed out of the shopping mall. At the same time, her eyes fell onto Rinka desperately trying to escape the corner she was locked in. Then, she found Mikado reading a book on the central area's sofa. The staff of the mall had returned home and nobody was present anymore. Pressing a switch, the last area was blocked off, only letting Mizuki get back to Mikado.

“Fufufu... now it's Mizuki bonus time!” Mizuki held the palm of her hand in front of her mouth, snickering.

No matter how long he waited, Rinka didn't return. Closing time had already passed and the shutters had gone down, so Mikado was wondering what to do when he heard light footsteps approaching him.

“Oh, Rinka...” Mikado raised his head from his book.

“Mikado-kun! Sorry for making you wait~!” With a beaming smile, Mizuki waved her hand at him.

“I wasn't waiting for you! Why on earth are you here?!”

It certainly wasn't Rinka who returned.

“I came here to buy a game~ I got too engrossed in it, so when I beat the last game the mall had already closed. I was about to cry, when I saw Mikado-kun!”

“Ahh... I see, that explains it.”

That's what you'd expect from a hardcore gamer, but it made sense that she would be scared in such a situation.

“It's fine, I'll do something about it. Come with me.”

“Yaaay! A special escort by Mikado-kun!” Mizuki jumped up in joy and clung to Mikado's arm.

She was as bold as always, but since she had no ill intentions, Mikado didn't bother pushing her away. On the contrary, she was basically a

lost child, so he wanted her to stay close.

“Hey, where are we going now? A western clothes store? An accessory shop? I’d love to watch a movie!”

“We’re leaving this place! Why are you so keen on having fun in a situation like this!? Weren’t you about to cry before?!”

“I was! I was so... so scared... ah, I know! There’s a haunted house at the event corner, so let’s go there!” Mizuki pulled on Mikado’s arm.

“You’re not scared at all! Let’s just go home!”

“Not fun at all, Mikado-kun! The night is still young, you know?”

“Kids are supposed to sleep at night!”

“I’m not a kid though~ I can do perverted stuff, wanna see?” Mizuki shot Mikado a seductive gaze.

She ran her slender fingers along her crimson lips.

“I don’t care!”

Feeling the nape of his neck grow a bit flushed, Mikado still acted natural and kept walking. If one played a long with a small devil like her, they’d probably be more drained than after doing a 100m sprint. Mikado’s first step was to search for Rinka in order to group up again, but he couldn’t find her anymore on the second floor. His smartphone was still in Rinka’s hands, so he couldn’t contact anyone outside either. Mizuki’s phone seemed to have run out of battery, so there was nothing to do there either.

“It’s an expedition~ Together with Mikado-kun~”

“You sure are relaxed about this...”

Mizuki was skipping along as she walked, to which Mikado let out a tired sigh. The escalators had stopped and billboards were out on top of the food corner to say they were done with business for the day. Walking around in this silent shopping mall made you feel like you were in a post-apocalyptic world. The shining lights with nobody

around to walk under them gave off a weird atmosphere.

“Why... aren’t the lights going out? And why did no security guard realize that we’re still in here...?” Mikado put his hand on his chin, thinking.

“Look look, Mikado-kun! I’m riding on the shoulders!” Mizuki ignored that, as she rode on the shoulders of a mannequin.

“That’s dangerous, come down!”

“It’s not dangerous~ This is my mom after all!”

“...You hit your head while I wasn’t watching?!”

“I always wanted to do this, but the employees would always get angry at me! I wonder whyaaaaah?!”

As Mikado expected, the waist of the mannequin broke in two and Mizuki fell towards the ground. Right before her body hit the hard floor, Mikado landed a beautiful catch.

“Wahh! Mikado-kun, so cool! You’re like a prince!” Mikado rubbed her cheek against Mikado’s.

“Be a bit more careful, okay...?”

Mikado’s heart almost leapt out of his chest. If Kisa’s little sister got any sort of injury under his watch, he’d most likely get bad karma for it, and Mizuki’s body was too soft for his heart as well.

“Ohh? Mikado-kun, are you actually flustered?” Mizuki grinned, narrowing her eyes.

“I’m not flustered.”

“But your face is red. Am I making your heart beat faster?” Mizuki poked at his cheeks with her fingers.

“No.”

“Oh I sure am! I can hear your heart beating perfectly!” Mizuki put

her ear to his chest and closed her eyes.

Being able to inspect her girly expression closely and see her long eyelashes, Mikado's heart started beating even faster. A face similar to Kisa's was just unfair. He knew that it wasn't Kisa herself doing it, but his heart felt differently.

Mizuki brought her lips to Mikado's ear and softly whispered.

"And now... you'll be carrying me to bed, right?"

"Who would do that!? Walk yourself!" Mikado reached his limit and shook her off.

"Kyahaha! I made Mikado-kun angry!"

Laughing her hardest, Mizuki walked down the still escalator. No matter how much one scolded her, she showed no signs of repenting. Honestly, it was surprising that she hadn't been killed off by her older sister yet. As he stepped down onto the first floor, Mikado thought about said older sister and panicked a bit, wanting to get Mizuki home as quickly as possible. Here, a large supermarket, a small shopping district, make-up stores and other highlights lined up next to each other.

"Mikado-kun, over here!"

Mizuki called out to Mikado, as she stuffed her cheeks full with a madeleine from a sweets store.

"Hey, don't just eat them!" Mikado reprimanded her yet again.

"Mmm... nom nom... it's fine~ This mall belongs to Rinka-chan's family~"

"Are you the type to eat someone else's pudding in the fridge...?" Mikado asked, only to be greeted by a shocked Mizuki.

"Of course! We're friends, so they'll forgive me!"

"Your definition of friend being...?"

“Everyone is my friend!”

“Wow, you sure get to eat a lot then!”

If it was this girl, she might just enter a random citizen’s household to eat their dessert. Not to mention that the people might actually forgive her, seeing how innocent-looking she was.

Meanwhile, her older sister Kisa.

“Grrrr...”

She had no idea of the situation going on in the shopping mall and was just glaring at her smartphone in her private room. Reflected on her screen was the chat between her and Mikado. Currently exchanged messages: zero. Before, when they had the phone call, she had tried her best and succeeded in exchanging chatting app IDs, but there had never been a single chat message sent.

That being said, it had to change now. Her little sister was chatting with Mikado to her heart’s content, every evening, almost. She would always report to Kisa what Mikado had eaten for dinner even. A bit ago, she bragged that ‘I made a paired icon with Mikado-kun!’ to her. She could not underestimate Mizuki’s skill. Still, she couldn’t lose against the likes of a middle school student.

“It’s okay... I’m not... I’m not nervous at all.”

At the thought of sending her first message, her heart was beating like her life depended on it. Her fingers, ready to type, were shaking. Naturally, as a Nanjou, she wouldn’t just send any message. After pondering on it for an entire week, she came up with the perfect message to get the conversation rolling...!

‘Good evening’

These were the magic words! No wasted energy to be found! If she asked ‘What are you doing right now?’, it would make it sound like she was actively longing for him, and with a ‘Let’s talk for a bit’, she would make it obvious that she wanted him to pay attention to her.

Then, a normal greeting. With that, no problem should arise. Truly a

solution only a genius like Kisa could arrive at. Or in other words, she was too scared, so she took the boring and safe approach.

And, after waiting for Mikado's reply for a few moments—

“.....Nothing!”

Kisa threw the smartphone onto her bed.

“What is this about?! He hasn't even read it yet! He's ignoring me?! Does he even know what that means?!” Kisa pointed at the smartphone in rage.

Ignoring contact from the Nanjou Family was the greatest crime in this world. But, Kisa swallowed her breath.

“...Wait a second. This must be a plan Mikado's. He must want to reply badly, but by delaying the message, he's trying to make me worry, to get himself an advantage in our love game! But, I won't waver with just this! Yes, for I am a Nanjou!”

The current game was a battle of restraint. If Kisa were to demand a reply, it would be her loss, so she had to wait for Mikado's response no matter what. Then, she would use this against him. This was the way of the Nanjou Family.

“If you're planning on that, then I'll gladly play along! You better be ready to apologize on your knees!” Kisa declared war, as she grasped her smartphone tightly.

As she was doing her usual barbell training in the training room at night, Sigma's smartphone gave off the sound of an incoming phone call. The overwhelmingly oppressing classic tone belonged to Kisa alone.

Sigma put the barbel down and wiped away the sweat on her neck as she accepted the call.

“What's the business?”

「Blow up the phone company!」

The very first words were quite the impactful order.

“I don’t mind, but can I ask why? Did some secret Nanjou information get leaked?”

「No! There’s... no response coming in... Mikado’s chat... Sniff... Hicc... I waited two hours... The phone company must have cut off the transmission... Sniff...」

She was wailing. Sigma yet again was at a loss, only wishing that she wasn’t giving off some order like that while she was still bawling her eyes out.

“No... there’s no certainty that that’s the reason. That shitty Kitamikado brat might just be busy.”

「How can you be busy enough to not answer my chat message?! Is he on the battlefield?! Then he can just hide in the trenches and reply for all I care!」

“As if there could be a war as easygoing as that!”

「Then blow it up! Blow up the entire battlefield!」

“Calm down already! Maybe he’s on a date, and too busy to reply?!”

She had just randomly chosen those words, but she realized too late.

「With some other girl... besides me...? Who’s that thieving cat....? Debauched low class worthless living being...」

“Ah.”

Sigma became acutely aware that she had just fully stepped onto a landmine. This was extraordinarily bad. If she didn’t carefully take the foot off the landmine, she’d be wrapped up in a tragedy.

Sigma scratched her head and tried to soothe her master.

“That just now... Well, it’s just one possibility. He might just be having dinner with his family, or taking a bath. I don’t think you need to pay it too much mind, don’t you think?”

「Look for Mikado with the tracking device attached to him」

“...Understood.” Sigma sighed and headed to the operation room of the private squad.

She was pretty doubtful of whether the love game could be won with a tracking device, but it was her master’s order, so it couldn’t be helped. Entering the room, she turned on the terminal and power, putting in the code of the target and started searching. The Nanjou Family had access to every surveillance satellite, so they could see everything like a god.

Mikado was found immediately and Sigma called Kisa to report back.

“I found him. The shitty Kitamikado brat is in a shopping mall called Valhawalk. That one in the harbour sector.”

「I see... A shopping mall sure sounds like a date route for a commoner. And Mikado is enjoying himself there with another girl...」

“We don’t know that for sure...”

「I’ll be leading the attack on the shopping mall, and raising hell!」

Kisa hung up the phone call, not even giving Sigma a chance to talk her out of it.

“Here is no good either, huh...” Mikado hung his head at the southern entrance.

The shutters blocking off the exits all wouldn’t budge an inch.

“Hey, Mikado-kun, we checked all the other exits already, right? Let’s have some more fun~” Mizuki pleaded, as she clung to his arm.

“We can’t just give up like that! At this rate, we won’t get out until morning comes...”

“Who cares~ We can just leave in the morning, so let’s have a sleepover!”

“I’m telling you that’s bad! If Kisa finds out... No, it’ll be bad enough with my own family if they catch on to this...”

Mikado’s entire body shivered. His father would be more than delighted if it was Rinka he spent the night with, but if it was any other girl, it’d be an unprecedented scandal. He wouldn’t even be able to prove whether he kept his virginity or not.

“It’s no problem! If it comes down to that, I’ll just leave the Nanjou Family and marry into the Kitamikado Family!”

“You sure are quick to leave your family behind!”

Even though it might’ve been like hell, a family is still a family.

“That’s why... come on?” Mizuki seductively whispered into Mikado’s ear. “I’ll keep it a secret from Onee-chan... so let’s have some fun.”

“You say that, but the game center and karaoke, and even the movie theater are all closed.”

A shiver of pleasure ran down Mikado’s spine at Mizuki’s tender breath. He felt terrified, as he grew more conscious of her in this deserted place.

“Mikado-kun... you definitely know... It’s a sisters bowl.”

“I do not, but that name alone tells me it’s not something I want to know either!”

“Then, let me tell you. A sisters bowl is when you have two sisters, and then you do them at the same time—”

“I don’t want to hear the rest! Don’t sully my pure heart with your dirty vocabulary!”

“Wooooow! A flustered Mikado-kun is so cute!”

Mikado walked away with quick steps, yet Mizuki clung to him again. Not knowing if she was just teasing him or actually inviting him was the worst part about her personality.

Then, a restless presence appeared behind Mikado's back.

"Mizuki-san.....?" A sharp voice sounded, filled with killing intent.

Mikado even wondered if Kisa had finally appeared as he turned around, but he was wrong. The person who stood there was his fiancée Rinka. Her hair was ruffled in a mess, her shoulders were heaving up and down, and an aura filled with rage emitted from every inch of her being.

"Oops... so you got out already... are you angry?"

"Of course I am! It was a lot of trouble to find a detour to get here!"

Rinka approached her like a demon, seeing that, Mizuki hid behind Mikado's back.

"Now now, don't make such a scary face~ I just figured it would be my turn now after you enjoyed yourself the entire day~"

"I won't change with you! The real deal is about to start, and I will be the one to stay with Mikado-sama!"

"Real deal...?"

Mikado tilted his head in confusion, having assumed that the date was already over. Rinka spotted this reaction and quickly cleared her throat.

"N-Nothing at all. Anyway, now that I have caught up, I won't let you do as you please anymore, Mizuki-san!"

"I wonder about that... I'm the type to selfishly do whatever I want!"

The two girls were gazing at each other, sparks flying— Not quite. Rinka did glare at Mizuki, but Mizuki was just flashing her usual innocent smile.

"I don't really get what's going on, but it's great that you came here Rinka. I couldn't find you anywhere, so I was really worried."

Rinka put her hands together and her eyes sparkled with joy.

“Mikado-sama...! So you spent sleepless nights, worrying about me...?!”

“You weren’t gone for that long, okay!?”

“Why weren’t you worried about me, Mikado-kun?! So cruel!”

“You weren’t even lost to begin with!”

In this irregular situation, Mizuki was enjoying herself to the fullest. Even if earth’s last day was arriving, she would most likely just go out for a picnic.

“But with this, we can contact the outside. Rinka, can I have my phone back?”

“Y-Yes.” Rinka took out his smartphone from her small bag.

Thus, Mikado tried to call someone, but his phone had run out of battery.

“Weird... I should have some battery left in it still...Rinka, can you call the security firm of the mall?”

“Well... my phone just ran out of battery...” Rinka embraced her bag with an apologetic gaze.

“Three people with no power at the same time...? Could that really happen...?” Mikado tilted his head in confusion yet again.

“Of course it could! Coincidences sometimes just stack up, ahahaha~!”

“Right! It’s already late at night, so it makes sense that the battery would run out after an entire day here!”

Both Rinka and Mizuki nervously nodded at each other.

“No, if my assumptions are correct, this is...”

“T-This is?” Mizuki instigated.

“I-I don’t know! I don’t know anything!” Rinka panicked even

further.

“Because the electromagnetic pulse originating from a nuclear explosion, rendered our phones useless...”

“Eh? Ah, yeah, that must be it!”

“But... If that was the case, then the lights must have gone out as well... Either way, some armed organization is doing some jamming, no doubt.” Mikado announced, fully convinced.

He wasn't completely sure which family they were aiming for, but it was an act of terrorism.

“Ahh, I'm so scared! Mikado-kun, save me!”

“I-I don't want to die!”

Mizuki and Rinka both clung to Mikado's arms. Their shoulders were shaking, so Mikado figured they must be actually scared. Though he was a bit dubious of their voices that sounded like they were reading off a paper.

“Seems like this incident is more complicated than we previously assumed... You two, stay as close to me as possible.”

“Yes! I will cling to you for the rest of my life!”

“I'll be like a ghost possessing Mikado-kun!”

With the two girls close to him, Mikado went up the escalator to the second floor. Since they were practically glued together, it was pretty hard to walk. They made their way to the parking lot exit, but the shutters were down and didn't allow them to get out. Heading to the security room, they tried pressing the alarms, but there was no reaction either.

“We really are locked in here... What should we do...?”

The two girls were in grave danger. Though Mikado was trained in the Kitamikado Family and probably able to withstand any sort of armed organization, if either of them met any injuries, he wouldn't

be able to forgive himself.

As Mikado sat down on the sofa in the isle, he heard Mizuki's gleeful voice.

"Mikado-kun! Let's sleep here for today!"

"I found a nice place to take a rest!"

The girls were calling out to him at the bed shopping corner. Mizuki had brought a pillow with her as she laid down, while Rinka had already put herself in position as well.



“How about you help me find a way out?!”

“Ehhh? Why can’t we just stay here? I’m so tired my HP is at zero!”
Mizuki jumped up and down on the bed.

“You seem to have more than enough energy!”

“I advise that we regain our strength. The outside must be

surrounded by enemy troops.”

“That’s even more of a reason not to sleep!”

“You’re always sweating the small stuff! Let’s just have a pyjama party!”

“Since when did this turn into a party?!”

Mikado was at a loss as to why the girls were so relaxed. Besides Mikado, neither of them showed any real intentions of escaping from the shopping mall. He even started doubting himself and pondered if they should just start living in this mall instead.

“...But, you’re right. This isn’t the time to be sound asleep just yet.”

“Yes. There is something we have to think about first.”

“What, did you two finally get it?” Mikado was relieved.

“Mikado-kun, between Rinka-chan and I, who do you want to sleep with?”

“That is the most important problem right now! I will not hand over Mikado-sama like that!”

“I was an idiot for getting my hopes up!”

The girls really had no intentions of returning home. On the contrary, they were dead-set on sleeping here and beckoned Mikado with sweet temptations.

“Mikado-kuuun, this mattress is really fluffy and comfortable~ You can even use me as a hugging pillow to fall asleep on~”

“A night is supposed to be spent together with fiances... I will take Mikado-sama to heaven with my love for you...”

The two of them opened up the blankets, and turned the bed into a dark, inviting void. No doubt about it, if he just gave in, he would be able to have a pleasant, warm and comfy night. Even after he separated from them a bit further away, their sweet scent arriving at

his nose tried to lure him back in. Rather than the armed organization, giving in to those girls would be even more dangerous.

“I can’t stay here! I’ll search for a way out myself!”

“That sounds like the guy who dies first in a horror movie!”

“Please wait a second! Protect me, Mikado-sama!”

“Hide in a place where you don’t stick out then! I’ll secure a route and return!” Mikado swiftly escaped from that place.

The sense of discomfort was way too strong. With such bad timing, the battery of three different people’s phones ran out, Mizuki was still here mysteriously and the girls were protesting against trying to find a way home. This might just be a situation... not originating from an armed organization... But Mizuki or Rinka’s doing, or so Mikado thought.

—Most likely, Mizuki.

That being said, Rinka might have caught on to this situation and is playing along now. Hence, he couldn’t go along at their pace, otherwise he might end up unable to return. Mikado headed up to the fourth floor, spotted a ventilation tunnel near the restaurant area and entered inside. It was pretty difficult to move along because of the narrow vent, but he couldn’t hesitate now. Crawling along like he had learned during guerilla warfare training, he managed to escape to the outside of the mall.

That being said, he couldn’t quite enjoy this freedom yet.

“Sure is high up...”

He was standing on the outside wall of the shopping mall. The ground beneath him was around ten meters away and if he fell down here, he would no doubt die. He could barely see his footing, it being late at night. Unlike the inside, the outside lights were completely turned off, probably to avoid gathering too much attention from any possible intruders.

From his point of view, Mikado couldn’t spot any signs of an armed

organization waiting outside either, so it really must have been Mizuki's trap. Putting faith in the bare view Mikado saw, he walked along the side of the wall.

His body felt oddly cold; maybe because of the cold night breeze or because he was anxious. Trusting in his five senses to use his body's potential to its fullest, he carefully climbed down to the second floor. Finally, he arrived at a large foothold, letting him take a breather. At the same time, he heard a mysterious, weeping voice.

“...Uu... Uuu...”

It sounded like someone was crying, a very thin and scared voice. Though, this was high up in the air, not a place where someone else should normally be. The only explanation for that would be... evil spirits, or haunted spirits. The voice came from the center of the foothold, hiding in one corner. Amidst the pitch-black darkness, he saw something move. Long, glossy hair ran along the ground.

“Who are you?!”

As Mikado screamed, [it] raised its head.

“...Ah... Mikadoooo...”

Large streams of tears ran down wide-open eyes and two arms embraced long, slender legs.

“Kisa?! What are you doing here?!”

Mikado doubted his eyes. He didn't expect to run into his classmate in such a location.

While she was bawling her eyes out, Kisa explained.

“The entrance was closed off, so I climbed up, wanting to enter through the window... but in the middle of that, I couldn't get any higher... And I couldn't get back down either... I even dropped my phone... sniff... hic...”

“Are you a cat who climbed onto a tree but can't get down now?!”
Mikado was baffled. “Why would you even try to sneak into the mall

at night? The stores are all closed, you know?”

“I came here because the tracking device on you led me here! You don’t even understand that?!”

“It’s my first time hearing of such a device though! Gotta take that off later!”

Kisa meekly pushed out her chest.

“Someone like Mikado can’t just easily take it off, it’s a special version!”

“Then you take it off right now!”

“I decline!”

Mikado sighed.

“Why did you even use a tracking device this late at night...?”

“B-because you didn’t respond to my text message...”

“Huh? A chat message? You sent a message to me?”

Kisa slowly nodded along.

“That’s all? You came all this way out here, risking your life while climbing up the wall, for that?”

Kisa nodded yet again. Seeing this, Mikado couldn’t help but get his hopes up slightly.

“You were... worried about me?”

“I-I wasn’t worried at all! I couldn’t forgive it! You’re just ignoring me! I figured you were out flirting with some cheap girl, so I was planning to come here and kill you all!”

“Scary!”

But, because of the tears in her eyes as she glared at Mikado, it

wasn't that convincing at all. Kisa buried her face in her knees and her shoulders shook like she was feeling cold. Seeing this, Mikado felt his chest tighten.

"Here... wear this..."

He took off his coat and softly put it on Kisa's slender shoulders. To that, Kisa's eyes opened wide.

"You're... giving this to me...?"

"No, I'm only lending it to you."

"Now that I've touched it, it belongs to me! Rather, half of the world belongs to me, so you've actually just returned it back to me.!"

"What kind of logic is that?!"

No, it was completely lacking in reason. Just selfish musings, which, then again, perfectly fit the way of the Nanjou Family. Mikado was actually raring to go and fight against that declaration, but after watching Kisa's reaction, he gave up.

"I will definitely not give this back... Yes, not under any circumstances..."

Kisa rubbed her cheeks against the coat, smiling happily. That gesture pulled out all the desire for rebutting in Mikado.

"For now, I'll go climb further down and try to get help, so you wait here."

"No! Don't leave me here!" Kisa grabbed Mikado's jeans as he was about to climb away.

"I can't exactly carry you while I climb down..."

"Then stay here! I can't anymore! I'll throw myself down if I have to stay here alone!"

Rarely enough, she looked truly terrified. And who could blame her? She might be the successor of the Nanjou Family, but she was also a

17 year old girl. She was different from Mikado, who was forced to climb Mt Everest when he was in grade school. That being said, if he listened to Kisa, nothing would change.

“...What should I do about this...?”

Mikad gazed at the world below him, completely baffled.

Chapter 3: Placation

“...Morning, Kisa. It was pretty cold a while ago, were you safe from a cold?”

“I’m different from the average commoner who doesn’t keep an eye on their physical well-being. I would never catch a cold.” Kisa returned these words with a confident smile.

The complete opposite of the Kisa who was quivering in fear at the shopping mall’s wall. The gesture of her slender legs, clad in black tights, as she put on her indoor shoes was as beautiful as ever. Her bangs falling down as she directed her head downwards, the nape of her neck appearing in doing so, Mikado yet again felt his heartbeat accelerate.

Kisa really was playing unfair. She wasn’t even doing anything special, but just her mere existence inflicted more than enough damage on Mikado. She was like a walking nuclear bomb, an existence ready to bring forth Ragnarok.

Mikado swiftly braced for the impact, and headed for a counter attack.

“Did you bring my coat?”

“Eh? No, I didn’t. I told you I’d keep it.” Kisa spoke, with a confused expression.

Normally, Mikado would give her an earful for being so selfish with something that didn’t even belong to her, but just this once, he gave up.

“I see, so you didn’t bring it~”

“W-What is it...”

Kisa showed wariness at Mikado’s nod. He lifted up the corners of his mouth, flashing a challenging smile.

“Is that...how much you wanted to have something of mine?”

“H-Huh?!” Kisa’s face flushed in a second.

She had high attack power, but her defense was easily broken. Aggressive approaches were the most effective against her. Hence, Mikado pressed even further while his enemy was staggering.

“I mean, that has to be it, right? You don’t even need my coat anymore, so you could just return it to me.”

“I like the design of it! Not because it belonged to you!”

“Then just buy it yourself? A store called Nobilis is selling the exact same one.”

“I can’t be bothered to go buy it myself!”

“Then just task one of your subordinates with it?”

“Ugh...” Kisa formed a fist with her hand, taking a step back.

Both her cheeks and ears were burning in a strong red, her knees shaking. From the looks of it, the damage was received properly. However, this advantage only lasted for a short bit.

“Well, I don’t mind giving it back. I was wearing it when I was sleeping...and it was touching my skin directly.”

“...Directly?!” Mikado felt his heart almost leap out of his chest.

“Yes, directly. It felt pretty comfortable on my skin, and I didn’t have the energy to put on something proper after my shower, nor my underwear, so I just slept with it on.” Kisa ran her slender fingers along her body to emphasize it.

This alone was enough to make Mikado vividly imagine the scenery. Pantomiming. Mikado felt like he could almost see the steam rising up her shoulders after the hot bath, with her glossy, slightly reddened skin.

“And, Mikado...do you want that coat, which I wore on my naked

body, that desperately...?” Kisa softly snickered, her smile filled with slightly bashfulness, and provocativeness.

“Ugh...!”

Mikado could feel his heart beating even faster, forcing him to hold down his chest as it started to hurt him. The two of them were glaring at each other, breathing heavily. They each had received a severe amount of damage.

Kisa closed her distance between Mikado even further, running her fingers along his chest.

“Hey...What is it, Mikado? If you properly ask me for it, I wouldn’t mind returning it...”

“I don’t...want it...”

It should have been nothing more than his coat, but it suddenly turned into a dangerous item to risk the love game as a whole.

“Full of lies. Just now, you were imagining me naked, right?”

“I wasn’t...”

Mikado’s eyes were entranced by her beautiful lips, as he was desperate to look for a way out. Those who call themselves a Kitamikado had to be able to seize victory in every situation imaginable.

At the same time, Kokage entered the entrance of the school building.

“Ahh! Mikado-kun and Kisa-chan! What are you doing~?”

The bodies of the two twitched in shock. The person surveilling them has appeared. They had to cancel the love game immediately, and go back to fighting.

“Well...Nanjou brought some explosives to school, which clearly went against regulations, so I’m trying to tell her off...”

—What a lame excuse!

Mikado retorted himself, but he couldn't come up with a better setting.

Kokage rested her chin on her camera, tilting her head slightly in a confused manner.

"Ehhh? But, it didn't look like you were angry...Rather, Kisa-chan was even touching Mikado-kun's tits..."

"Men don't have breasts!"

"They sure do~! You can't just differentiate between man and woman! Boys should be allowed to wear bras whenever they feel like it, yes!" Kokage emphasized.

Both Kisa and Mikado joined in together to deliver an explanation.

"T-This is...I wasn't touching him or anything, I was trying to throw him away! He was so annoying just because of some TNT I brought with me!"

"What do you mean 'just because'?! You'll leave a crater if that blows up!"

"Again, so annoying!"

"It'll be a big problem if that happens, you know! Be aware that you're still a high school student!"

"Mrrowow!"

"At least talk in Japanese!"

Kisa acted like an agitated cat, which looked as cute as it could be. She and Mikado were glaring at each other, as sparks flew. Wondering if this really looked like a fight, he shot a sideways glance at Kokage. She was crying.

"S-Stop...hic...fighting...please...sniff..."

"Why are you crying?!"

“I don’t want to watch the people I love fight...The two of you always looked like a good pair, so why...”

“I-Is that so?! D-Did we look like that?! How, and in what way?!”

“Calm down, Nanjou! We’re fighting, remember?!” Mikado tried to calm down Kisa, who got caught on Kokage’s words.

Of course, being told that they were a good fit made Mikado feel interested as well, but he couldn’t give in to that desire. It might just be a trap that Kokage set up for him.

“Umm...I think that the length of your eyelashes perfectly compliments each other!”

“E-Eyelashes? What do you mean?!” Kisa was confused.

—No, Kokage and setting up a trap is pretty much not happening.

Mikado changed his train of thought. Kokage just acted along her instinct and some foreign logic. She would never lure someone into her own scheme like that.

At the same time, Kokage looked at Mikado and Kisa, seeming slightly saddened.

“Why do you keep fighting recently? The atmosphere in the classroom is all stiff and awkward as well...If you were a bit nicer to each other, everyone’s school life would improve, I’m sure...”

Kisa shrugged.

“What a stupid question. We belong to two differing families. Since ancient times, we have kept fighting. Right, Kitamikado-san?”

“...Yeah.” He nodded.

Throwing hate and strategy at each other, a blood-riddled battle. That is the true relationship between the two families. Even if they happened to be classmates, they would never end up in a relationship on good terms. Being the successors of these families, Mikado and Kisa had the duty to keep this relationship going. Loving each other

would be a sin.

Yet again realizing this cruel fate bestowed upon them, Mikado grit his teeth in frustration. Still, just being left to go along as fate desires wasn't the style of the Kitamikado—No, Mikado's way. He would do everything in his power to overthrow this nonsense called destiny.

Kokage crouched down on all fours, crawling along the brushes of the courtyard. Her knees cut through the crass, and her hair was full with leaves, but she didn't bother too much with it. If a Kwaraya bothered with such trivial problems, her ancestors would laugh at her.

It was the same small bushy way that she had used to continuously check out Mikado ever since middle school. Using this small passage not even the gardening club or facility members knew off, she continued to crawl along. She took out her camera in the bushes next to the flower bed, capturing Mikado in her lens.

Kisa was close to Mikado as well, and they were talking about something. She couldn't quite pick up what the two were talking about, but she decided to take a picture nonetheless, reading the camera. But, before she could click the shutter, a giant eye appeared in front of the lens.

“Hyaaaaaaaaa?!”

Kokage was left terrified of the shock, as Mizuki looked down at her.

“M-Mizuki-chan...Don't scare me like that...”

“Whatchu doing~? Hide and seek? Let me join in!”

Her eyes were sparkling with innocence, as she put one hand on the grass.

“Not hide and seek. I'm taking pictures of Mikado-kun and Kisa-chan.”

In order not to gain any attention from her targets, Kokage pulled Mizuki into the thicket.

“I see~ Did you manage to get a good one?”

Mizuki reached out for the camera, brimming with interest, so Kokage swiftly pulled it away. It'd be highly troublesome if she accidentally destroyed all the hard work Kokage had gathered.

“Not really, no~ The two of them seem to be on edge like always... I'd like to get a motive with them being as close as before, but...”

“Seems like you have it rough, Kokage-chan~”

“Yes...Mikado-kun's father even started to rush me because I didn't bring any results yet...But, there's still value in doing this!” Kokage formed a fist to support her words.

“value in doing this?” Mizuki tilted her head with a blank expression.

“Yes! Mikado-kun is the most interesting photographic subject I ever had! His expression when he's smiling, when he's troubled, when he's angry...they are all so deep and profound, I can never get enough of them! Just watching him through the lens...is so much fun!” Kokage showed a heartfelt smile.

Laying bare her honest feelings was kind of embarrassing, but she was also happy, and felt a bit ticklish inside. This was the first day she ever revealed these feelings.

Mizuki gazed at Kokage, as if she tried to see through her.

“Kokage-chan...don't tell me...?”

“What is it?” Kokage asked with a sideways glance.

Mizuki swiftly shook her head.

“No, it's nothing! I think it'd be better to keep the number of rivals to a lower number! It's fine if you haven't realized it!”

“Ehh?! Now I want to know!”

“Don't sweat it, really! It's not like the fate of the earth depends on it, so just forget I said anything!”

“You’re teasing me, aren’t you! Please tell me!”

Information existing out there unbeknownst to the Kawaraya Family was not something Kokage could swallow. She had to know at all costs, most importantly because she felt like it was something essential for her.

“Can’t help it~ I’ll tell you! Kokage-chan...maybe your lungs are reversed in position?!”

“I-Is that so?! I didn’t realize at all!”

Still, Kokage didn’t quite grasp why it would matter if the left and right lung got switched. She wanted to ask for further detail, but Mizuki just started laughing as she stepped out of the thicket, running towards Mikado and Kisa. She got a bit scared that Mizuki might snitch on her, so she took a bit of distance, but that’s not what happened.

“Mikado-kun! Are you fighting with Onee-chan again?! Just leave her alone, and go on a date with me, come on!” She jumped at Mikado, hugging him from behind.

“S-Stop...I can ‘t...breathe...”

“Hey! Don’t just kill Kitamikado-san before I get the chance!”

It almost looked like Kisa was angry that her prey was about to be stolen.

“I won’t kill Mikado-kun though! He’ll be playing with me now after all!”

“I’ll die before we can get to that...” Mikado grew pale in his face.

—I-I have to take a picture of that! Kokage realized her chance, and although it wasn’t a picture of the two of them acting close, she felt the urge to take a picture nonetheless.

He heard a rustling noise coming from an empty classroom. Mikado wanted to see what that was about, and took a peek inside the room. There, panties were growing from the ceiling. Assuming it was just

his eyes playing a trick on him, he rubbed them, and looked up again. Now he could even see a skirt as well.

“Some new living being?!”

Together with his confused scream, a girl’s uniform appeared, as well as a face.

“Keep it quiet. I’m busy.”

The owner of the skirt was Kisa. From the looks of it, she had pushed her upper body into a hole in the ceiling. Her legs had a safe halt on a ladder. Because the stimulus of the panties was too great, Mikado didn’t pick up on anything besides that.

“...What are you doing?” Mikado asked, trying to keep his gaze away from the skirt.

What made it even worse was that the panties didn’t belong to just anyone, but Kisa.

“I found some hidden passage Kawayaya-san is always using to spy in on us, so I’m setting up a trap.” Kisa came down the ladder.

“Better not be any that leaves her in mortal danger...”

“They’re all perfectly safe. The victims will just suffer from a mental breakdown.”

“It’s not safe at all!”

This spoke completely against any ethics Mikado possessed.

“She’s been annoying me with her tailing recently, so of course I have to take some countermeasures. I’ll render her useless for about three days, so hopefully she’ll stay calm after that.”

Kisa picked up a suspicious-looking case off the table. It was a metal case, big enough that you could even carry it in two arms. Four lamps were in the corners, with a motorric sound coming from the inside.

Kisa followed up with a swift explanation.

“Inside here are a great number of insects. If I put down the cable connected to it up behind the ceiling, Kawaraya-san will activate the trap, and the box opens. She’ll be assaulted by an army of insects!”

“Weren’t you bad with insects?”

“I’m not! I just hate them so much that they make me want to destroy the entire earth if it meant rotting them out!”

“I’m surprised you can just normally hold a boy like that then.”

He could even hear the crawling and thumping of the insects inside, making even Mikado feel a bit uncomfortable. He took a step back, but Kisa approached him even further with her case in hand.

“They’re not actual insects after all. These are reconnaissance planes in the form of insects, developed by a military company under the Nanjou Family’s wings. They look just like insects, but they’re entirely mechanical. And I didn’t put them in there either.”

“Basically, you haven’t even looked inside yourself, Kisa.”

“As if I would! Also, unless someone touches the cable, or presses this switch!” She pointed at the switch on one side.

This momentum became lethal.

“...Ah.”

Kisa’s fingertips touched the switch, which was followed by an electrical sound. The color of the case turned reddish-black, and the insects flew out as soon as it opened.

“Kyaaaaa?!” Kisa let out a shriek, jumping at Mikado.

Her soft body, with even softer mounds, was right inside his arms.

“H-Hey!” A scorching heat filled Mikado’s entire body.

And, calling it bad luck, or natural because they were inside an

empty classroom connecting to one of Kokage's sneak routes...

"Did something happen?!"

Holding her camera, Kokage stormed inside, making both Mikado and Kisa freeze up again. The two of them had their bodies clinging to the other, their fingers intertwined. Mikado had one hand on Kisa's waist even. They were unable to separate in time, not escaping from Kokage's view.

"This...This is!!!" Kokage let out a happy voice, and immediately took a picture.

Following that was a bright flash, and the detrimental scene burned on Kokage's data card.

"I did it! I finally completed my mission!" Kokage embraced the camera, dashing out towards the hallway.

Having been left behind in the room, Mikado and Kisa still embraced each other, spacing out with blank expressions. They didn't even have the time to pay any mind to the insects flying around.

".....!!! We have to catch her and finish her off!"

"No killing! But yeah, we have to grab her immediately!"

The two of them dashed after Kokage at full speed. In the hallway during lunch break, Kokage's footsteps resounded loudly enough to track her. Though they had a delay of a few seconds, their bodies were clearly better trained than Kokage, or maybe they were just that desperate, so they quickly approached her.

"Wait! We won't do anything! We definitely won't do anything, so just stay there!"

"No thank youuuu! You'll definitely do something to me!"

"Then we'll attack you! So keep running, it'll make things easier!"

Kisa screamed after Kokage, taking out a small handgun, removing the safety lock. Mikado watched this in fear, and quickly grabbed her

hand.

“Stop with the guns! And where did you even hide that?!”

“It’s a maiden’s secret! I was just going to shoot her legs! The rest will come after she’s stopped!”

“You’re way too violent towards a classmate of yours!”

“Not at all! If I really was, I would have turned her into pieces already with my claws!”

“What kind of animal are you? A sabre tiger?!”

Mikado tried to steal the gun from Kisa, who was vehement on pulling the trigger. And as the two of them were fighting, Kokage jumped down the stairs like a rabbit.

“See, she escaped because of you, Mikado! What are you going to do about this?!”

“So it’s my fault now...? I’ll do something about it!”

Mikado let his brain cells work at full capacity, anticipating Kokage’s next moves. Judging from this situation, she’ll definitely try to escape by leaving school grounds. The nearest exit from these stairs is the hallway through the courtyard. They were on the third floor right now, but the situation didn’t permit the normal route. He opened the window next, and after checking Kokage’s presence, he jumped through the opened window frame.

“Wah, Mikado?!”

“I’ll be going on ahead!”

Ignoring this puzzled Kisa behind him, Mikado didn’t hesitate a second to leap into the open air. It was a free fall cutting through the wind. Right before he landed, he bent his knees, expanding his muscles, and dampening the impact of the jump, his feet landing on the grass. With this, Mikado stood facing Kokage.

“Hya?! Something fell down?!” Kokage let out a scared shriek.

He closed in on Kokage, slowly pushing her against the wall.

“Now, Kawaraya. Hand over that camera. If you leave this to me, nothing major will happen.”

“Oh no no no no...” Kokage embraced her camera, taking another step back.

Her knees were shaking like a deer terrified for life.

“It’s not like you took an exceptional picture, okay. Still, you can’t just use something like this for your own. Peeping pictures like this is a crime. And I don’t want to report a dear classmate of mine...unless I really have to...you get me?”

“Y-Ye—” She was even too scared to properly say the word ‘Yes’.

“Alright, then, come towards me. Don’t worry, I’ll guarantee your safety...”

“I’m sorryyyy!”

From Kokage’s mouth, something like a pill fell out. Right as it hit the ground, a bright light flashed Mikado’s eyes, and a white smoke came piling up.

“A smoke screen?!”

Mikado quickly closed his eyes, sealing off his mouth and nose, but he didn’t make it in time. Once he opened his eyes again, the flash of light had burned into his eyes, greatly worsening his field of view. Though, he could pick up footsteps running away. He kicked into the air, allowing him to make Kokage fall over right into his arms.

“Kya?! How did you know?! Were you an esper, Mikado-kun?!”
Kokage tried to break free, but to no avail.

“You won’t defeat a Mikado just by stealing our sigh...As long as I have my hearing at least, I can continue fighting.”

“Scary! You’re not even human anymore!”

“Now, return the camera...Here? Or is it...here?” Mikado relied on his sensation to find the camera.

“Ah, no, hya...”

A sweet voice leaked out of Kokage’s throat.

“C-Can you not let out a weird voice?!”

“B-But...if you touch my breasts like that...”

“Breasts?!”

After Kokage pointed it out, Mikado himself realized that the sensation in his hand was too voluptuous, too soft to be a camera. And way too big as well. If he put a bit more grip into it, Kokage twisted her body.

“Mmm! Y-You can’t...Mikado-kun...! You can’t just fondle them like that...!”

“.....!!!”

He could feel his blood boil, forcing him to instinctively jump away from Kokage. Impossible. A young man of the Kitamikado Family, doing something lecherous like that. Not allowed to happen. Before Mikado could catch his thoughts, Kokage ran away, him being alone in the courtyard as the smoke cleared. From the school building, Kisa came running as she looked around.

“Mikado! Where’s Kawaraya-san?!”

“Eh? Kawaraya...? Who...?” Mikado was dumbfounded.

“Kawaraya Kokage, from our class!”

“Class...meaning?”

“Memory loss?! What are you spacing out like that?! Your face is red like a tomato! What happened?!” Kisa gazed at Mikado’s expression with a glimmer of worry in her eyes.

“W-Well...by accident I happened to...Kawaraya’s...”

He wanted to respond honestly, but the shiver running down his spine forbade him from doing so. This was tremendously bad. He could not, under any circumstances, tell the truth. His instincts were warning him. It wouldn’t just end in normal bloodshed. The last time he felt such instinct was when he was having a barehanded battle with a lion, on the brink of death.

“Kawaraya-san’s...what? Tell me...Mikado?” Kisa asked with a gentle tone.

That being said, her eyes were those of a devil. A dark aura, enough to wipe out humanity with just its density, started to build up behind her slender shoulders.

“I happened to...almost break her...poor soul...” Mikado changed his words.

“Hmm? How surprising that Mikado of all people would be able to do that.”

“I-It was just by accident, I was getting a bit fired up...”

“...Is that so. That’s okay then.” Kisa’s expression softened, a sigh of relief escaping her lips.

The sky above Mikado looked so dazzling and beautiful. He was grateful to be able to return to his family for another day. Still, this wasn’t quite the time to be relieved. Kokage had completely vanished from their sights, no traces left behind.

“For now, I’ll have Sigma do some jamming to disable any sort of communication in the area. With that, she won’t be able to send it to your father via email, or upload it on a server as backup.”

“That’ll be great. Now all we have to do is stop any sort of direct contact between the two of them.”

As Mikado was starting to think of a plan, Kisa took out her smartphone with a graceful gesture.

“I’ll send my armed private squad here. She’ll be dead in 15 minutes.”

“Don’t kill her!”

“We don’t have any other methods left, right?! You want her to keep bothering our game then?! The same thing will happen again eventually!” Kisa glared up at Mikado.

Naturally, she couldn’t be more right. The more these things occurred, the higher Kokage’s chance of success was, with the game over approaching for Mikado and Kisa.

“That’s why...we have to take care of this now. We have to make Kawaraya our ally.”

“Ally?! Something must have happened with her, right?! It must be because of her gigantic chest...I’ll remove it so she’ll be as flat as a cutting board...!”

“Stop with the gruesome stuff already! That’s not it! Pull yourself together!”

Kisa suddenly took out a great number of daggers, to what Mikado protested.

“Haa...haa...huff...”

Kokage ran through a backside alley, heavily out of breath. Not thinking about anything, she just dashed away from the school, chased by some armed group on the way, almost caught, but somehow managed to escape as she heard gun shots behind her. She really thought she was going to die.

Still, to protect the pride and honor of her family, as well as to become the ‘Exclusive Intelligence Officer’ of the Kitamikado Family, she had to bring this mission to a success no matter what. She couldn’t allow herself to be captured right here. Finally, she stopped hearing footsteps of her followers, as she lowered her speed.

“N-Now...it should be fine...right...?”

Resting her body with one hand on the wall, she tried to get her distorted breathing under control. It was a miracle she was still alive.

Looking up, she saw a vending machine close to her. The mechanical sound made it seem like it still worked, and it said [Refrreshing~] written on it, filled with cold juice. Thinking that she might as well get a sip for her dry throat, Kokage moved towards the vending machine. She put the money inside, and pressed the button, but no juice came out. She tested it another time, but the result stayed the same. Thinking that it must probably be broken, she pressed the lever to get her change back, and put her left hand inside to grab the coins. Then, the opening grabbed onto her hand.

“Hyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa?!”

In the truest sense, it grabbed onto her like jaws of a flesh-eating beast. She tried to free her hand, but was left unable to do so.

“W-What’s going on with this?!”

In her field of view, she found an emergency stop button. At the opposite of the opening for the change was a small hole, as she could see this red button. What even is an emergency stop button for a vending machine?

Or so she started thinking, but she didn’t have the time to rationalize with everything. Right now, her left hand was being eaten by a vending machine.

“Gaaaah!” Kokage gave up, and pressed this emergency stop button.

A fanfare sound rang out, and her right hand was also grabbed.

“Whyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyy?!”

Kokage cursed all the cruel absurdity in this world. Both her hands were now restricted by the vending machine, ending up with her butt wide out in the back alley. Her thighs, riddled with sweat, were starting to get cold as well.

Now, the words ‘CLEAR’ lighted up in front of Kokage’s eyes, on the button she had pressed for the purchase. She didn’t know what

exactly was cleared, but looking at this situation, it couldn't have been anything good. A metallic sound rang out, and the juice finally came falling out. With sparks, the can opened, as a violet smoke emitted. Breathing that in, Kokage could feel her consciousness slowly fade away.

“A-Abduction...”

Kokage's consciousness cut right as she realized she would be having a meeting with an extraterrestrial lifeform.

The Nanjou facility looked like a giant storage house. Even wider than the sports grounds at school, with intense flood lights shining down. The floor itself was riddled with iron plates. Mikado raised his eyebrows at the fact that there were no items, not even shelves in this storage house, the walls even thick enough to not let any sound outside. All he could see was a high-power vacuum machine, a hose massive enough to be used by firefighters, and a small-type burning incineration machine.

Just what exactly were they burning in here? And why were there red spots on the ground?

—Well, finding out won't do me any good!

Mikado gave up on thinking. He could technically ask Kisa and Mizuki next to him, but he'd run the risk of being stained by the Nanjou darkness. 'If you stare into the abyss, the abyss stares back at you' were the famous words of Friedrich Nietzsche.

Kokage was stationed on a chair in the middle of the place, her arms and legs restrained with shackles. Her uniform was loose here and there, and her shoes had been taken off. Chains were digging into her slender arms and supple chest, but Mikado couldn't be taken aback by that.

“Mm...No...the vending machine...the vending machine is alive...”

Right now, Kokage had her eyes closed, most likely having a nightmare. Wondering what cruel and inhuman way was used to capture her, a cold shiver ran down Mikado's spine. Finally, Kokage's

eyes shot open, and a shaking voice came out as she observed her surroundings.

“W-Where is this?! An UFO?! Inside an UFO?! How many light years are we away from the solar system?!”

Kisa stood next to Kokage, softly smiling.

“Don’t worry, we’re still on earth.”

“Eh, Onee-chan is acting kind...? Is this the end of the world...?”
Mizuki’s eyes opened wide.

To that, Kisa calmly nodded.

“Well...she’ll be going to hell in a bit after all...”

“That’s not kind at all! You better hold back, alright?!” Mikado pressed just to be sure, but the location in itself was too unreasonable anyway, so he didn’t have much hope.

Since the love game was a secret to the Nanjou Family only, they had to resort to using one of their facilities, but he might regret this decision soon.

“Mikado-kun and Kisa-chan?! E-Even MIZuki-chan?! Was I betrayed?!” Kokage screamed, and Mizuki gleefully waved her hands.

“No betraying to be found here! I thought the interrogation would be fun, so I joined!”

“Unnecessarily malicious!”

“I-I’ll be interrogated?! N-N-Not happening! Whatever you do to me, I will not reveal the contents of my mission!” Kokage closed her lips with as much force as she could, but the second she even mentioned the word ‘mission’, Mikado couldn’t take her much more seriously.

She had announced that she was suspicious before the interrogation even started after all.

Kisa showed a benevolent smile.

“Resist as much as you want. That makes the interrogation at least worth my time.”

“Ahahaha...” Bubbles started foaming out of Kokage’s mouth.

Kisa grabbed her jaw, slightly lifting it up as she stared deeply into her eyes.

“But, since I am such a kind person, I’ll give you a chance right now...You were tasked to investigate the relationship between me and Mikado by the Kitamikado head, right?”

“Eek?! I-I don’t know about any of that! I wasn’t ordered!”

“I really think it’d be wiser to just confess, especially for your own good. Your mother would be sad, you know?”

“Why are you a detective now...”

It is the job the furthest away from the darkness of the Nanjou Family after all.

“A lawyer! Please call a lawyer! Until then, I will not say anything!”

At this point in time, Mikado had to give praise to the Kawaraya Family for having the guts to stand against the Nanjou Family like that.

“Can’t help it then. Let’s start this merry-go-round.”

“There’s lots of tools here as well!”

Pushing the wheels, Mizuki brought a cart with her. On top of said cart was a plier, a hammer, a cutter, needles, a saw, awl, wire, and many more rather grotesque items.

“Fufu, how about we start with this one~” Mikado picked up the plier.

“D-Don’t tell me, with that plier...” Kokage’s eyes opened wide.

“Exactly! It’s just what you think!”

“P-Please, don’t! I’ll do anything instead of a confession! I can be your dogsbody for lunch time even!”

“I won’t do something as cruel as that to a friend of mine~”

“You say as you’re about to torture me?!”

“Hehehe~ Hehe~”

Mizuki didn’t even pay any mind to Kokage who was desperate on running away, as she used the plier to bend the wire. With the cutter, she slightly cut open a part of fabric, putting it on the pointed end of the wire. She followed that by cutting some timber with the saw, wrapping the wire around one end.

“D-Don’t tell me...Mizuki-chan...that plier is...”

“Right! We’re using it for work!”

Finishing the baton with wire wrapped around it, Mizuki lifted it into the air to openly show it.

“O-Oh...Don’t scare me like that...I thought you were going to use that to torture me—”

“Here we go!”

“Fueh?”

As Kokage let down her guard, Mizuki attacked her. She used the fluffy end of the wood baton with the fabric on it to tickle Kokage’s bare legs.

“Kyahahahahahaha?!” Because of the sudden stimulus, Kokage couldn’t hold down her voice. “H-Hold...Mizuki-cha...what are you... hahaha! It’s tickling me! Ahahaha! Stop, please! I’m bad with this sort of thing!”

“Ohhh, nice voice, Kokage-chan! Laugh some more! Tickle tickle~!”

“What about this side then? Fufu...seems like you’re weird here as well.” Kisa joined in, as she tickled Kokage’s neck.



A full-on tickling attack conducted by the Nanjou sisters. Watching this sight, with two beauties running their fingers across Nanjou's well-built body, who even let out sweet-sounding moans, Mikado swallowed his spit. He was torn between wanting to take her position, but also not taking her position at the same time. He didn't even know where to direct his sight at.

“You’re...pretty stubborn...”

“I’m tired~”

Kisa and Mizuki both let off with their assault, stopping their hands.

“Haa...huff...cough...!!” Kokage was twitching on top of the chair, barely alive.

Her cheeks were colored in a scorching red, her lips wet. Her eyes were drowsy, almost looking like she just went through a highly sexual act. From the looks of it, the tickling attack couldn’t be underestimated. Thanks to Mikado throwing in a veto, the torture was only held on a level such as this, but he wondered if he did the right thing now.

As a Kitamikado, Mikado was trained to survive any sort of torture to keep the country’s secrets safe, but he didn’t have any training with this.

“Now that it’s come to this...We can only use the injection...”

Kisa picked up a syringe from the cart, reading it. This left Kokage terrified.

“I-Is that...truth serum?!”

“Not quite~? It’s medicine to make you feel all better after all that tickling~”

“I’ll definitely die! I’ll bite my tongue and die right here!”

“You’ll feel better right away~ We’re high school students, so we have to hold back off the serum!” Mizuki made a fist.

“I’m not scared of the serum, but what happens after that! If you tickle me any more, I’ll really lose myself! I can’t!”

“No biggie, I’ll hold your hand while we do it!”

“If you’re that kind, just forgive me to begin with!” Kokage tried to break free yet again.

She was panicking on a level Mikado worried she might actually bite her tongue. Mikado decided to jump in now.

“Let’s leave it at that, I feel bad for her.”

“A-A god...?!” Kokage’s eyes sparkled as she looked at Mikado.

“I’m not a god or anything.”

“Buddha! Thank you very much! I’ll tell you everything now!”

Kokage had a complete switch in attitude.

Kisa observed this with a suspicious gaze.

“I see...so you’ll be kind to her when she is weakened the most, so that she’ll open her guard to you...Not bad.”

“I wasn’t doing any dirty plan like that!”

Mizuki softly shrugged with her shoulders.

“Understood, Boss! I’ll leave the torturing to that level!”

“That makes it sound like I was the one who planned this entire thing in the first place!”

All color drained from Kokage’s face.

“N-No way...to think Mikado-kun was the mastermind all along...”

“You’re wrong, okay!”

It took him around 30 minutes to clarify that Mikado was nothing more than a forced accomplice instead of the mastermind. He could not have anyone think that the Kitamikado Family would do something grotesque like torture. Finally, Kokage had calmed a bit down, so Mikado freed her from the restraining chair. Kisa and Mizuki kept eyes at the exit just in case she would try to run away.

“...And, you were instructed by my father after all, right?” Mikado calmly asked, to which Kokage nodded along.

“Y-Yes...I snuck inside the Kitamikado residence to gather some intel

on you, and I got caught. If I accept, and deliver results, I'll get a high position in the family for information, and if I don't, my family will be crushed...I'm sorry." She grabbed the hem of her skirt, deeply bowing down, as her hair shook.

"No, it can't be helped if you had a reason for that. Sorry for making you suffer like that."

"N-No no! I am the one at fault! You didn't do anything, Mikado-kun!" Kokage panicked and waved her hands.

She really didn't have any bad intentions, just a girl too honest for her own good. The only person not knowing about the love game in this place was her. It would be quite the gamble to tell her, but—

"About the reason why my father had you look into us. Kisa and I aren't in any sort of romantic relationship."

"Really...?" Kokage still looked a bit dubious.

Who could blame her. Mikado and Kisa were terrifically serious about keeping the picture a secret. But, Mikado had to continue. Being honest was the way of the Kitamikado Family.

"Kisa and I are actually in a game."

"Mikado?!" Kisa protested immediately.

"Don't worry. I'll definitely convince her." Mikado announced with confidence.

This strong confidence was transmitted towards Kisa.

"...If this fails, we really can only force her."

She wasn't exaggerating. In order to protect Kokage from being erased by the Nanjou Family, Mikado had to succeed in this.

"What kind...of game...?" Kokage asked in confusion.

"A love game. It's about who can make the other person fall for the other first. The loser will become the winner's slave, throwing away

their family.”

“If the family loses their successor, it’ll bring it to ruin, right?!”

“Exactly. That’s why, this game decides the fate of Japan, making it the final war between the two families. A world either ruled in light or darkness...Millions of lives of people rest upon this, it’s not just a normal love game.”

If it had been possible, Mikado would have preferred to have a normal romance. Forgetting about this stupid game, just spending a wonderful time. But, this kind of thing was not allowed between the two families.

“Such a...crazy battle has been going on...in the same classroom...?”
Kokage was dumbfounded.

Mizuki put her index finger on her lips, throwing a wink.

“By the way~ Only the three of us here know about this game, okay?
Rinka-chan seems to have caught on though~”

“Why can’t you talk to the head of the Kitamikado Family about that?
I’m sure that he would do anything to support you...”

Mikado shook his head with a heavy expression.

“That won’t happen. He won’t take any risk of having his family suffer. If he catches on, the game will be stopped immediately, I will be forced to leave the school, and kept as far away as possible from Kisa.”

“M-Mikado-kun will leave school...” Kokage’s expression grew cloudy.

“If you play along for us, I will guarantee full safety for your family. Depending on it, I’ll even give you this executive intelligence officer title. That’s why, could you please help us? This is a request as the future...no, as your friend, Mikado.” He directed his gaze directly at Kokage, reaching out with his hand.

“E-Eh...um...Uu...” Kokage panicked, her eyes running along her

surroundings.

—I knew it. It's working.

Mikado saw his chance. Kokage shouldn't be doing all of this out of the goodness of her heart. She is being forced by Mikado's father, hence most likely holding some sort of resistance to this, and he was betting on that.

Kisa walked towards Kokage.

"...I will promise you as well. Once I become the head of the Nanjou Family, I will make you the executive intelligence officer."

"Eh? I-I can become an amazing person like that two times?!"

"No, just once. If I win, Mikado will have to leave his family. Either way, whoever wins in this game, you will not suffer from it if you help us."

"I see..." Kokage muttered, as Kisa grabbed one of her hands.

She seemed oddly docile, as she calmly continued.

"I...I'm betting my everything on this game. I cannot allow anyone to become a bother. Kawaraya-san, please. Become our ally."

"It's the first time I see Onee-chan ask without giving an order!" Mizuki raised her voice in shock.

"Even I can ask nicely once in a while. Most of the time, it's with a muzzle to their heads though."

"That's not asking, that's threatening!"

"Why would I not use any methods available during negotiations?"

"Do you even understand what the word negotiation means...?"

Yet again, Mikado was terrified at the darkness residing in the Nanjou Family, but this time, it was a heartfelt request, so he let it slide. Through that, he realized that the love game meant a lot to

Kisa, and that realization made the deepest part of his body slowly burn with strong passion.

He felt the same after all. This love game was the most important battle in his life.

“How about it...Kawaraya-san?”

“...Please.”

Both Kisa and Mikado asked her yet again, waiting for her response.

“.....” Kokage cast her face downwards, thinking.

A heavy silence ensued. The future of the two was resting in her hands alone. That must be insane pressure for her. On top of that, if she were to decline, then Kisa would be using her methods, and Mikado wasn't sure if Kokage could make it out of them alive.

“...I understand.” Kokage opened her mouth.

“Really?”

A ray of hope appeared in front of Mikado.

“Yes. However...I have one request.”

“Say whatever! I'll use my influence to make it come true!”

Be it money, social standing, or even a title. Either way, it would be something cheap if it meant they could continue the love game. If it allowed Mikado to stay with Kisa, he would give everything.

Kokage's ears turned flushed, and she started fidgeting.

“I...want to visit Mikado-kun's room.”

“.....Huh?” “.....Eh?”

Both Mikado and Kisa froze up at the same time. The request was completely outside their assumptions.

“What...exactly do you mean by that?” Kisa narrowed her eyes,

glaring down at Kokage.

Some sort of aggressive aura started to emit from her shoulders. Kokage saw this, and started shrinking like a frog, afraid of a spider.

“U-Um, the rooms of the head of the Kitamikado Family and the successor are completely locked off, right! Not even subordinates or friends can enter!”

“Eh, really?! I was planning on paying Mikado-kun a visit soon!” Mizuki said, clearly not grasping the mood.

Though any sort of interior information should be locked off for the outside, this is what you would expect from the Kawaraya Family.

“She is right. The successor of the Kitamikado Family can never show anyone a weakness...Not even those close to me. The security is insane, so only I'll be able to enter my room.”

“Aren't you crazy lonely?! I can enter Onee-chan's room whenever I want to!”

“Yes, but I wish you would hold back a bit in that regard! I need some privacy as well!”

“I don't though~? I wouldn't mind if Onee-chan saw my innards~”

“I don't want to see them!”

“I want to see Onee-chan's innards though~?”

“Well I will never ever show you!” Kisa took some distance from Mizuki.

Mikado felt a shiver run down his spine, as he protected his own stomach with his hands. As the words go, politeness towards closeness, but even if Mizuki had no ill-intent with this, Mikado really couldn't take this as a joke.

“I want to have a look at the room nobody in my family has ever set foot upon. My Kawaraya blood is begging me to do so!”

“It’s true that my room is the one place nobody is supposed to ever see, but...”

“Can I really...not go to your room...?” Kokage gazed upwards at Mikado, looking like a puppy asking for a treat.

From just the words alone, it was quite the stimulative request. A classmate of his, not to mention a girl, wanted to see his room under any circumstances. Still, Mikado wasn’t the type of person to be swayed only because of that.

“I...don’t really mind, but it’ll be some trouble, you know? I can take care of the security of my room, but I can’t do anything about the security of the residence...”

“I’ll try my best!” Kokage put up one fist.

“Seriously?! Even I haven’t been in your room yet!”

“You want to see my room...?” Mikado asked.

Kisa’s expression grew flustered, but she stood strong and lifted her chin in an arrogant manner.

“A preliminary inspection! After I win against Mikado, making him my slave, and crush the Kitamikado Family while doing so, I have to know what Mikado’s room looks like! I have to know where to put my bombs after all!”

“Let’s not blow up my room okay?”

Mikado still felt like becoming her slave wouldn’t be too bad of a life, but turning his hometown into a sea of flames is nothing short of demon lord level.

“Then, then, how about we all go to Mikado-kun’s room then!” Mizuki raised her hand, to which Kisa sighed loudly.

“That’s not going to work. Someone from the Nanjou Family invading the residence of the Kitamikado Family...worst case, an all-out war could break out. We can’t do that yet.”

“Not yet, huh...”

“Yes...not yet, right?”

Though Mikado felt uncomfortable at the Nanjou sisters sharing a gleeful smile like that, she was right. Either way, it was decided that Kokage would come visit Mikado's room the day after, and they disbanded.

—I feel like this will end pretty badly...but that's not going to happen, right?

Mikado was worried beyond belief, but could only hope for the best.

The following day.

A few hundred meters away from the Kitamikado residence, Mikado and the others had finished their preparations. A limousine had parked on the shoulder of the road, Sigma observing the situation with a stern expression. She must be tired of yet again tasked to be the running dog for her master.

Mikado called out to Kisa.

“You said you'd prepare the infiltration tools. Did you bring them?”

“Of course!”

Kokage's shoulders twitched.

“They are specifically made by the Nanjou Family, right...Do they have some sort of optical illusion tech?”

“Heh, it's not something trivial like that.”

“It's even more amazing?! Like a weapon that can make everybody in a five kilometer radius fall unconscious?!”

“A bit more practical, impactful. The best item ever to hide your presence, Kawaraya-san!”

“T-Thank you very much! All that just for me?! I'm honored to be

able to use such techniques from the Nanjou Family!” Kokage’s eyes were sparkling with anticipation.

“The invasion tool just for you...is this!”

The item Kisa took out from the limousine—was a plastic, solid looking sack. One thick zipper ran across one side.

Kokage raised a voice of admiration.

“W-Woah, it fits me perfectly! What is this?”

“A Nanjou Family special...diving bag!”

“Diving bag...?” Mikado got a weird premonition, and carefully asked.

“It seals off any resistance, to make sure they properly sink down in the ocean!”

“It’s just a tool to take care of people then!”

“I don’t want to die just yet!”

“By the way, what makes this diving bag so amazing is airtight shutting. In order for the person inside not to escape, everything is completely closed off. Be it light, scent, or even air.”

“U-Um...if not even air can’t get inside...won’t I suffocate?”

“It’s fine, it all depends on Mikado! If he hurries, you’ll survive!”

“That’s way too dangerous! At least keep open a hole for air!”

“You can’t even cut a hole in this material! Don’t underestimate our materials we use!” Kisa protested.

Mikado painfully realized that he should have taken care of the tools himself. At the same time, Mizuki showed her face from inside the limousine.

“Hey, how about we use the cardboard box we had the diving bag in?”

“That’s it!” Mikado answered quickly, and took out the box.

It was big enough for one person to fit inside, with enough of a hole for air. He had Kokage sit inside, and closed the box.

“...Alright. I’ll be going then.” Mikado said, as he picked up the box, and walked towards his home.

This might be the first time ever he was nervous about coming home. It felt like he was challenging a demon lord. If Kokage was spotted on the way there, it’ll cause a great ruckus. The two of them would be questioned harshly, and Kokage would eventually break under the pressure, leaking the operation. Thus, the Kitamikado Family would find out about his relationship with Kisa. Hence, failure was not allowed.

As he mentally prepared himself, Kisa approached him.

“...Mikado, there’s something I need to warn you about.”

“...I’m listening.”

Advice from strategic professionals like the Nanjou Family was always much appreciated. Hence, Mikado carefully listened, as Kisa looked at him with a serious gaze.

“D-Don’t do anything weird with K-Kawaraya-san...okay?”

“.....Huh?” Mikado spaced out at Kisa’s unexpected words.

“I’m saying that you can’t do anything perverted just because the two of you are alone! A-Allowing her in your room is just a condition for our negotiations! It’s nothing like a usual situation when a boy and girl are alone in a room! Don’t be mistaken, okay?!” Kisa’s face was burning red.

Mizuki hid her mouth with her hand, giving Kisa a sideways glance.

“Ohh? Onee-chan is worried!”

“O-Of course I am! He’s doing a game with me, so playing around with another player would collapse the game! M-Mikado is...my

prey...!” Kisa pouted, pinching her index fingers together as she muttered.

“Ugh...!”

Mikado felt a long spike piercing his heart. He wasn't sure if he should call this jealousy or not, but she was definitely worried about Mikado. Though he was a bit perplexed that she saw him as prey and not as a man.

“...It's okay. I'm fully aware of our goal this time.” Mikado cut.

Just because he was a virgin didn't mean he would go crazy just because he was alone with a girl. On top of that, he was taught to keep his virginity his entire growth as the successor of the Kitamikado Family. Additionally, Kokage also announced from inside the cardboard box.

“I'm also fine here! I don't really understand much about perverted stuff...It should be fine as long as I don't take my clothes off, right? Believe in me!”

“...Maybe I should put some bindings on the box?”

“Again, stop wanting to suffocate her!”

Mikado felt like a storm could be brewing up soon, so he quickly made his way. Tightly holding onto the cardboard box, aiming for the Kitamikado residence. The box in itself wasn't heavy by any means, but carrying a girl inside was quite the refreshing experience, using up a lot of his mental strength to focus on not letting her fall.

As he approached the gate, the sensor of the gate activated, scanning the visitor. Mikado showed his face, and iris.

[Welcome back, Mikado-sama]

Together with an electronically created voice, the heavy metal door slowly started to open. Mikado was slightly anxious, as he set foot into the house. The way was paved with gravel, going through a beautifully decorated garden. In various places, you could see the lenses of the security cameras flashing. On the ground, sensors had

been set up, checking if the person was an invader according to the pulse, so if he were to drop the box once, it'll be all over.

From the set-up intercom, he heard Mizuki's voice.

< Mikado-kun~ Go right ahead, and stop at the garden lantern! >

"Gotcha."

From the surveillance satellite data, Mizuki taught him the safest infiltration route from the limousine. As Mikado hid his body next to the lamp, the sounds of the guard passed him by. Since someone might always check the contents of the box, he had to evade any sort of contact at all costs.

< Next, run to the storage house in less than two seconds! Take the corner to the right, and started dashing! >

"Can do!"

Going along with Mizuki's instructions, he started running at full speed.

< It feels like I'm playing a sneaking game! So much fun >

"Stop with the jokes...I'm an actual person."

< I know I know~ I'll fulfill my mission, and get you back alive! I have two lives left after all! >

"I only have one life though?!"

< Ah! If you jump over that pool, I get an extra 5000 points! >

"We don't have a point system!"

Maybe having the hardcore gamer act as operator was a bad idea after all. With a joint operation between the Nanjou sisters, it's all high specs, no doubt, but the personalities were much problematic.

Eventually, Mikado made it inside the residence from the back entrance, and he let out a stressed sigh. Comparing the number of

guards inside to the ones in the garden, it was much easier to handle. Careful of the surveillance cameras and surrounding footsteps, Mikado walked down his own home.

“U-Um...Mikado-kun...are we there soon...?” Kokage’s worried voice came from inside the cardboard box.

“Shh. Don’t talk now.”

“B-But...I have motion sickness, so...”

“Motion sickness?”

“Yes...it’s my first time riding a boy, so it feels a bit weird...”

“Don’t phrase it weirdly like that!” Mikado could feel his cheeks turn red.

“I-Is it weird...? What about it is...?”

“The way you said you’re riding me...”

“...? I am riding you right now, aren’t I?” Kokage asked, clearly not catching on what Mikado was trying to say.

Unlike her well-built, often troublesome to deal with body, she was as pure as it could get. Because she was focussed on gathering information all day every day, no more room for anything else in her head.

“A-Anyway, I’ll be hurrying to the room, so put up with it for a bit longer!”

In order for the inside of the box to not turn into a mess, Mikado picked up the speed. Being aware of any surrounding footsteps, he was about to arrive at his room.

“Oh, young Master? You seem to be in a rush.”

His butler Nishida appeared in front of him. He was an old man, 75 years old, with silver-grey hair. Wearing a smoking jacket with not a single wrinkle in it, he had one monocle, and yet a sharp gaze that

would not let any dirty spot unattended. He has been in the Kitamikado Family's service ever since Mikado's father was born, and he was more of a grandfather than his blood-related one.

"O-Oh, Nishida. I just have some urgent business."

"What might you be referring to? And why are you carrying this huge box?"

The monocle of his butler ran over the box. Panicking greatly, Mikado tried to find an explanation.

"This...has wildflowers in it. I'm conducting research to heighten my survival skills."

"That's the young Master for you. I am yet again amazed. Even if the earth were to break apart, everything can be taken care of if the Kitamikado Family is alive after all."

"No, even I can't do anything about that..."

"Naturally you can. The world only needs the Kitamikado Family, and from your genes, new generations can be born."

"A place with people who all look like me sounds like hell!"

"No, it's paradise."

"Is that so..."

Though he was a kind hearted spirit, in his years of working for the family, he had started to see them as gods. Mikado would rather not end up the messiah of this new world, unless Kisa was with him of course, acting as his Eve.

"Now, hand me that box. I will carry it for you."

"N-No, I can do it myself..." Mikado took a step back.

Kokage had kept herself silent inside the box, but you can't hide the sound of faint breathing. On top of that, you could almost feel her warmth through the thin cardboard, so he couldn't have anyone else

carry it.

“Carrying luggage like this is not a job for the young Master. Please leave that to the people supposed to serve you.” An overwhelming pressure came from Nishida.

That being said, his kind words were also a bother right now, and Mikado couldn’t accept this.

“I put too many in there, so it’s pretty heavy. I’m afraid the bones in your waist might suffer.”

“I do not mind at all! If it’s for the young Master’s sake, I don’t mind breaking my waist, ribcage, or even my neck!”

“At least protect your neck, or else you’ll die!”

“Now now, no need to hold back.” Nishida didn’t give Mikado a chance to argue, and grabbed the cardboard box. “Guaaaaaaah?!”

As expected, a horrendous cracking sound rang out from his waist, as he collapsed backwards on the floor. The box flew to the ground, a muffled *Kya?!* coming from Kokage.

“Nishida?! You okay?!” Mikado panicked.

“I really feel like I can do more than this, but it seems like my age is slowly catching up to me...Please, leave this old man behind...and move on to a new generation, young Master...” The butler hanged his head, as he was out of breath.

Even after this acrobatic stunt he pulled ending up in a bridge position, his monocle was perfectly fit on his face, and his white hair was still perfectly in order.

“U-Um...should I call an ambulance?”

“No need for that. I will rest here for a bit, so don’t mind me.”

“This pose doesn’t look like it’ll give much rest...”

Though he had spent a lot of time with his butler, Mikado still was

confused at happenings such as this.

“Leaving that aside, young Master, I feel like I have heard a scream coming from that box...”

“J-Just your imagination. There might have been a frog mixed in with the grass and flowers.”

“A frog...? It sounded more like a woman’s voice...”

“A female frog two weeks after birth!” Mikado picked up the box, and started running towards his room.

Finishing the safety check, he jumped inside, and locked the room. After putting down the box, he wiped away the sweat on his forehead.

“Alright...coming this far, there should be no more problems...”

He was completely out of breath. Carrying the cardboard box didn’t have much physical toll, but the mental stress was immense.

—So taking a girl to your room is this much trouble, huh!

Mikado sent words of admiration to all the brave and courageous boys in the world. You couldn’t overcome obstacles such as security, surveillance teams, and even the eyes of your subordinates with any half-baked determination.

“S-Save meeee...” A pitiful voice came from inside the cardboard box.

“Sorry!” Mikado quickly opened the box, opening his eyes wide at the sight greeting him.

Kokage, who had entered the box in a sitting position, was now laying sideways. Because of her being thrown to the ground, her clothes wrinkled up here and there, her hair in a mess. Basically, she was riddled with wounds. But, the sight of her looked way too erotic for Mikado to ignore. Her blouse was opened, her slender hips revealed.



“Umm...it would be great if you could help me out...I can’t properly move in here...”

“A-Ah, yeah!”

Mikado was spacing out for a second, but quickly caught himself and grabbed Kokage’s arms.

“Hya?! D-Don’t be so rough, it hurts!!”

“What should I do then...? Your arms and legs are stuck...”

“Kindly...do it kindly, please...”

Her arms and legs were drenched in sweat, making the grip on her difficult for Mikado. On top of that, her chest and butt were highly sensitive and dangerous points as well. Making sure not to touch her inappropriately, he carefully took her out.

“Haa...I thought I was going to die...” Kokage sunk down on the carpet, devoid of any strength.

Her breasts were still emphasized heavily through their high volume and opened blouse, and her beautiful skin on her butt was openly shown. Even her thighs, and the white fabric beneath her skirt, what was that? Mikado was sure it couldn’t be panties, but he was too occupied not knowing where to look first.

“...For now, can you fix your clothes? I’ll go bring some tea, so you can look around after that.”

“No, I’ll begin my investigation right now!” Kokage jolted up from the box.

“You sure are energetic!”

“I’m finally in the lion’s den! What is that mysterious being the recon group as spotted here before! The thousand-year old mystery! I don’t have time to rest!”

“Don’t treat someone’s house like the Amazon! I’m the only one living here!”

“Just because you don’t know doesn’t mean it doesn’t exist...”

“Don’t scare me like that!”

Kokage didn’t pay much mind to Mikado’s complaint, and just walked through his room with a deeply profound expression. From the drawer to the next, she continued to open everything. Rushing

through the shelves, sticking her head into the clothes drawer, peeking beneath the bed even. It was a clear violation of privacy, but this was the condition, so Mikado couldn't stop her. All he could do was try to control the embarrassment with having a classmate look through his everything.

"Mikado-kun! Mikado-kun! Who is this kid?" Kokage showed him a picture she had taken out of an album.

It showed a young boy about three years old, surrounded by cats. The animals themselves were really clingy, but the boy seemed about to break out in tears. Mikado grit his teeth at the fact that Kokage found the worst memory in the beginning.

"That is...me..."

"Eh?! This is Mikado-kun?! You look really scared! You're losing against the cats!"

"I couldn't help it...Back then, I thought that cats belonged to the race of lions..."

"Well, they are a type of cat! I see, so Mikado-kun had a time like that...interesting~~~"

"You trying to say something..." Mikado could feel his face burn hot.

"Nothing at all~? I was just thinking that the clumsy and dummy Mikado-kun is also pretty cute~?"

"Ugh..."

It was the failure of a lifetime. Being called clumsy from clumsiness personified, wearing a human skin called Kokage...Pure blasphemy.

"Can I scan this and take it home?!"

"Don't leak it outside, okay?"

"I know I know~!"

Kokage ran the picture through the terminal she brought with her, gathering the data. Although the circumstances couldn't be helped, Mikado still felt like this would have severe consequences in the future. That he might have shown a severe weakness to Kokage.

—No, Kokage is different from Kisa. She wouldn't use it for bad. This should be fine.

Mikado told himself to calm down, watching over Kokage's continued plundering. She had her knees on the ground, her upper body inside another drawer. She must be completely engrossed in her investigation, because she didn't even realize how her butt was in the wide open. There were several times where Mikado could almost see inside her skirt.

Kokage raised her voice.

"I found something amazing! An ancient manuscript!"

"Ancient manuscript?"

Mikado grew wary of this expression, and saw a certain notebook when he turned over. The cover was pretty old, showing that it had been stored in there for a while. Written on it with beautiful handwriting was the title 'My radiating heart'. Seeing this, his soul screamed in agony, and all the memories from back then came gushing back.

"Don't look at that!" He screamed out, but he couldn't make it in time.

With agility you normally wouldn't imagine from her, Kokage evaded Mikado's hand. She swiftly escaped on top of the floor, retreating back to the top of a bookshelf. Almost like a cat...no, a ninja.

During the times of samurai wars, the Kawayaya Family was working for feudal lords or the shogun family, acting as spies. The skills they have earned back then must have been passed on in a great number in their blood.

Kokage mercilessly opened the notebook, reading the contents aloud in a gleeful voice.

[Light]

Shine! Shine! Shine!

The justice of a Kitamikado! Peace widely filling the world!

All that exists, is light!

All evil will be driven out, turned into nothingness

My promise will be given, my blade of justice raining down from above

I will be, yes, I will be the successor of light!

Celebrate, let's celebrate!

And then, the wind will carry us forth...Fine¹

“Ugh...Gaaaah...!” Mikado tried suppressing the severe stinging pain in his chest.

The embarrassment made him want to jump out of the window. Kokage on her part just looked at the notebook with a pale expression.

“Eh...what is this...lyrics for a song?”

“Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhh...”

“Don't make sounds like you're some sort of zombie! What is going on with this embarrassing song? Just reading this makes me want to die out of embarrassment!” Kokage opened the notebook, showing the pages to Mikado, making him relieve all the sins and pain he unconsciously produced when he was young.

“It's...a poem I wrote...when I was in that sort of time...” Mikado had to force the words out of his mouth, trying to endure this torture.

“Ehh?! A poem?! This sounded more like a password! And what's with this 'Fine' at the end?”

“It means...that it's over...”

“Why would you use music notation at the end?!”

“Because I thought it sounded cool!”

Kokage scratched her cheek in an awkward manner.

“W-Well, this might be just my personal impression, but the final ‘I will be the successor of light!’ thing is a bit...well...cringe...”

“Please, stop it already! I wrote them back in grade school, and I can’t go back in time to change it, can I?!” Mikado tried to forcefully take back the notebook, but Kokage swiftly dodged again.

“I want to read some more! These poems have a great sense, and they’re fun! Have I finally arrived at the Kitamikado Family’s greatest scandal?!”

“This is why nobody except me is allowed inside this room!”

Security was indeed a big part of it. However, the biggest reason for this was to ensure nobody could ever grasp a weakness of the Kitamikado Family’s head, or the successor. Hence, only in his own room, the successor could show his real colors.

“Ummm? Let’s see— [Mikado, this is the truth. This ultimate name was bestowed upon you by all in creation]...? Woah...”

“Stop reading it out loud!” Mikado jumped at Kokage, who had previously evacuated on top of the bed.

“Kyaa?! Mikado-kun, you’re too serious—”

Kokage lost her footing, fell over to the side and beautifully hit the back of her head on the wood of the bed. A loud and ominous sound rang out, and she stopped moving. She ended up lying upwards, the notebook on her well-endowed chest.

“H-Hey? Kwaraya! Kwaraya?!”

Mikado rushed next to her, trying to force a response out of her, which didn’t come. Slightly nervous, Mikado touched the backside of her head, but besides a bit of a bump, there was no blood coming

out. And then, a sweet voice leaked from her mouth.

“Mmm...Fuhehe...got some information about Mikado-kun...” She just muttered things to herself.

“So you just fell asleep?!” Mikado was relieved, but only for a short moment.

No matter how long he waited, or tried to wake her up, she kept her eyes shut.

“Kawaraya. You can’t just sleep in a boy’s room like that.” He shook her shoulders.

“I will not...hand over the proof...” Kokage was sound asleep, clinging to Mikado.

“Wake up already! This could end very badly!”

“Ehehehe...so warm...” Her arms wrapped around Mikado, pulling him towards the bed.

He tried his best to escape, but because he felt her softness all over, he couldn’t muster up any strength. Though, just giving in to this hellish paradise was not an option either.

“What should I do about this...” Mikado was at a loss, as the soft scent of the girl next to him assaulted his brain cells.

A bit after 7pm in the evening.

Kokage softly opened her eyes from her slumber. She carefully raised up her body, looking around the room with a confused expression.

“Eh...where is this...? What was I doing?”

“So you’re finally awake? You came here to investigate my room, but you just fell asleep.” Mikado called out to her while sitting on a nearby chair.

Kokage muttered.

“It feels like I read something really fun before I fell asleep...”

“Your imagination.”

“But...I remember that I really wanted to read more...Wasn't it related to your past, Mikado-kun...?”

“Your imagination.” Mikado kept pressing the false truth.

He needed to cover up the existence of these poems at all costs, otherwise his life would be over.

“That makes sense! Seems like I lost myself between the real and dream world !” Kokage accepted it with a smile.

—I'm so glad she's an idiot!

Mikado thanked Kokage's parents. If she had only a small percentage of Nanjou Family genes, she'd definitely not fall for this trick, let alone keep this a secret.

“Still, just falling asleep at someone else's home, you okay? You're not feeling off, are you?” Mikado asked in a worried manner.

Kokage showed an uncomfortable face.

“Well~ I was just a bit tired I think! I've been running around gathering data of Mikado-kun and Kisa-chan, so I haven't been sleeping for about a week.”

“Seriously, are you okay?! Shouldn't that be tough just staying awake?!”

“I'm totally fine! I'm not gonna fall asleep that easilyuuuuuhh...”

“You're not fine at all!”

Kokage was about to fall back onto the bed, barely stopped by Mikado. In his arms, Kokage's eyes opened wide.

“Ah, I-I'm sorry!”

“All good...”

Kokage pushed up her body, her face burning bright. After this a rather awkward atmosphere filled the room. Even if she can summon chaos at demand, she was still a normal girl. A blouse and skirt didn't fit into this male atmosphere in his room. He couldn't help but grow conscious of her, even if he tried his best not to.

“...Why are you so desperate? Even if my father asked you to, why do you have to ruin your own body to look into me that much?”

“I have to...work hard. I want to become someone worthy of being the Kawaraya Family successor as quickly as possible.” Kokage rolled her hands into fists on top of her knees.

“I think you're doing a pretty good job already though.”

So much that it was bothersome for him. She had holes and small passages prepared at school where she could sneak around, even sneaking into the back of the car Mikado used to and from school, risking her life to observe Mikado while he was on that cruiser. This passion, this desire to find out about Mikado was more proficient than with any other intelligence seeker before.

“It's still not enough! Just because I work hard doesn't mean I automatically get results. I still haven't managed to land any big scoop, and there's so many things I don't understand yet about the Kitamikado Family! If I don't become someone like my mother or father, who even managed to get into the deepest parts of a company to look for information...I will be an embarrassment. If I manage to make it big like becoming the executive intelligence officer, I thought I might become a bit closer to them...” She let out a sigh after she finished her monologue.

“It's pretty rare for you to talk this seriously, Kawaraya.”

“What do you mean by that?! I'm always serious!”

“I wonder about that...”

Still, Mikado felt like he saw a fresh new scenery. This space maniac girl he only saw her as actually worried about the future as well. She wasn't just acting along her ridiculous desires.

Kokage continued, as she had a distant gaze on her face.

“I have a dream. I want to become someone who can uncover every secret hidden in the dark side of this world. I have to know everything there is to possibly know. About Mikado-kun, about Kisa-chan, even about the NASA conspiracy.”

Well, her desires were high, oh so high, and first and foremost absurd. Still, she was a pursuer of the truth. Seeing her honesty, and how she told about her own circumstances, Mikado realized he had to come clean as well.

“I also have a dream.”

“World domination?!”

“No.”

“Then space domination?! What a big scale!”

“It’s not any sort of domination. It’s more calm, more normal towards the citizens, yet still very important. For this dream...I need Kisa, no matter what.”

“You need Kisa-chan...” Kokage’s eyes opened wide.

On the more honest side, Kisa wasn’t needed just as a simple stage of his dream. The dream as a whole, the goal of everything, was Kisa. However, to openly say that, Mikado was too embarrassed. Even in this room with only the two of them, there was one person too much for a confession of love like that.

“In order to get Kisa, I have to win at this love game no matter what. There is no other way.”

“You are from enemy families after all...”

“That’s why...please, work together with us. For my dream. And of course, I will support yours.” Mikado reached out with his hands towards Kokage.

“...Yes. You even showed me your room...From now on, we are

allies.” Kokage took his hand.

This wasn't the first time the Kitamikado and Kawaraya Family had worked together as allies like this. Though Mikado's ancestors always kept wary about the other family, they were always a great help to amass information. But, this was the first time they formed an equal relationship.

That being said, this time around, for this final war, on top of the Kawaraya Family, even the Shizukawa Family got wrapped up in it all. Something was...definitely changing. Most likely, this era. Or even Japan.

“Mikado-kun...do you love Kisa-chan?”

“Huh?! Where did that come from?!” Mikado felt his entire body boil.

“I mean, why else would you be so desperate to get Kisa-chan...This means that you love her, right?” Kokage gazed deep into Mikado's eyes.

He could see the passion of her, who pursues any sort of truth. Feeling the softness of her hand, Mikado grew even more flustered, trying to pull away his hand, but Kokage held onto him with both of hers, pulling it towards her chest.

“N-No...I wonder...How do I say it...you know...” He struggled to find the right words.

The inside of his head was a mess, his body not functioning properly. Right as Mikado was backed into a corner, Kokage let go of his hand.

“Nevermind...You don't have to force yourself.”

“R-Really?” Mikado sighed in relief.

“Yes...I feel like, I already know the answer to that...” Kokage had an oddly saddened expression on her face.

Having gotten quiet with that, Kokage stopped looking through Mikado's room, and swiftly went home.

1 The 'Fine' here is written in English in the original

Chapter 4: Photoshoot

After classes had finished, in an empty classroom, a group of allies had gathered. Though it was less like a diplomatic institution, and more of a storage shed, with objects like documents stacked, Japan's powerhouses were represented here right now, with Mikado, Kisa, Mizuki, Rinka, and even Kokage.

Having been called here by Mikado, Rinka was a bit confused as to what was going on, her gaze running along the faces of the people present.

“Um...I am a bit lost at this assembly...Kawaraya-san, did you...?”

Kokage put her hands together, bowing.

“I’m sorry! They found out that I was observing them! But, don’t worry, they don’t know that I am helping you out in getting closer to Mikado-kun!”

“You just revealed it?!”

“Ahh?! I’m sorryyyy!” Kokage screamed out, despairing.

“So such a mission was going on in the shadows...That could have ended dangerously...” Kisa gulped in anxiety towards this sudden reveal.

Kokage really was a summoner of chaos, keeping quiet about that fact during the torture (tickling hell), and now just carelessly revealing that. Mikado felt a shiver run down his spine, thinking that she might one day tell everyone about his poems.

Mizuki raised her hand.

“I knew it this entire time~! I just kept quiet because it seemed interesting!”

“You better remember this.”

“Yay! Onee-chan will do something scary to me!”

“Why are you that happy about it?!”

Mizuki was an airhead as usual. She wouldn't even be threatened by the Empress of Fear, just grinning at her angered older sister.

Since everyone started talking about their own topics, Mikado cut the line, and brought up the main topic.

“Anyway. In order to stop the intervention coming from my father... the current head of the Kitamikado Family, we have to cut off his methods. Otherwise, we can't properly move.”

Kisa put the palm of her hand on her cheek, and nodded.

“Exactly. For now, we should send Kawaraya-san onto a trip overseas to NY.”

“I don't wanna! I want to stay in Japan!”

“Then, let's start the ‘How long can humans survive in a vacuum’ experiment, and send you to the moon, using a rocket.”

“I don't...actually, that doesn't sound too bad! This might be my big chance to get into space!” The color in Kokage's eyes changed.

“Well said. I'll prepare the disclaimer and contract, so sign that later.”

“I'll do a sign, a seal, or even prostrate myself! With this, I can meet the unknown!”

“Calm down, Kawaraya. You probably won't last one minute like that.”

Mikado didn't want to see his classmate being sent to death by the fearful Nanjou plan, so he cut in. Though he appreciated Kokage's enthusiasm to achieve her dream. He'd rather not have her end up frozen in space.

“Then, what should we do? As long as Kokage-chan is alive, Mikado-

kun and Onee-chan will never be able to rest easy, right?”

“Mizuki-chan?! I thought you were on my side?!”

“I am, but I have to be honest here~!” Mizuki showed an innocent peace sign.

For Mizuki it was even worse because she actually had no ill-will with it.

Mikado cleared his throat, and continued.

“How about this? Rinka and I will show scenes of a fulfilling school life, with Kokage taking pictures of us. Showing them to my father, he should be satisfied.”

“So basically...you’re talking about an act, right?” Rinka narrowed her eyebrows.

“Y-Yeah. I feel bad towards you, Rinka...but could you help me out?”

“If Mikado-sama orders me to, then I have no reason to decline...”
But her expression wasn’t all too happy.

Since she wasn’t just acting, but truly in love with Mikado, this was the expected reaction. Deceiving the head of the Kitamikado Family was nothing but a demerit for her to begin with. Hence, while feeling horrible of making her go through this, he lowered his head towards her.

“...I’m sorry. Just for one day, holding hands at school, sitting close together, kissing...is that too much...?”

“Kiss?! I can kiss Mikado-sama?! Please, let me accept your gracious offer!!” Rinka reached out towards Mikado’s hand.

“Kissing is going a bit too far, isn’t it?! M-Mikado’s first kiss... shouldn’t be treated that lightly!” Kisa showed great rebuttal.

“I-I-I-I don’t have any practice taking pictures of a bedroom scene...!”
Kokage panicked.

It turned into a ruckus.

“I-It’s just acting! We just have to approach our faces close enough that it looks like a kiss!”

“But...if our faces are that close, our lips could touch by accident...right?” Rinka’s face was beet red, as she looked at Mikado with a drowsy expression.

Her lips were slightly dampened with excitement.

“N-No...let’s not, okay...?”

“I know...it was just a hypothetical idea...” Rinka’s eyes were brimming with lust.

If that time came, she would definitely use the momentum. She would not let such a big chance slip away.

“Ughh...!” Kisa’s face was equally red, as she glared at Rinka.

The deep parts of the Nanjou residence. A golden chandelier, light woolen curtains, blocking off the queen-size bed. In her private room, equipped with luxurious furniture, Kisa was busy chatting with Mikado.

“Are you really going to act out that operation?”

“No other choice but to do that, right. At this rate, our game will come to a halt.”

“That’s true, but...Even if it’s acting, you’ll still be flirting with Shizukawa-san, right?”

“Are you...jealous?”

“Of course not! Who do you think you are?! You are my future shoe stand!”

“I’m less than actual furniture?! ”

“Isn’t that pretty fitting for you? If you don’t want to end up in the

storage room, you better improve my mood!”

Sending a stamp of a burning house, Kisa threw her smartphone on her bed. Following that, she buried her own face in her pillow.

“Haaaa.....” A long sigh escaped her lips.

Even though this game was supposed to be between just the two of them, more people joined in, more people bothering them, not allowing her to make it work out how she wanted to. Having been raised in wealth and success, this was the first time she went out of her way to fight for something.

To be fair, this love was too reckless to begin with. The Nanjou and Kitamikado Family are opposing families in Japan. One controlling the darkness like hades in the underworld, one guided by the shining sun. No matter the circumstances, this love was not allowed.

During her recent student life, Kisa yet again became aware of that. Although it was mere acting, she had been having severe fights with Mikado, verbal wars, sparks flying between them. She hurt him with her baseless verbal abuse, and hurt herself as well.

And yet, this was how things are supposed to work between them. If she gave in to this fate, she would become a real enemy of Mikado. Watching Mikado with a sideways glance as he happily built his family with Rinka or Mizuki, her mission was to ruin his existence.

—What torture.

Just imagining a future like that, Kisa’s field of view grew darker. Nanjou Kisa was raised to become the Empress of Darkness. Even if her entire family ordered her to, she would not break down. A future where she would have to fight Mikado, she would never accept.

In order for that, she needed to win this love game, and in order to lessen the surveillance of the Kitamikado Family’s head, this operation was necessary. That being said, she could not allow Mikado’s fiance to steal his lips, his heart.

“Taking everything I want, even if by force...is my way of doing things.” Kisa tightly grasped her smartphone, and muttered.

Shown on the screen was the gleeful smile of Mikado, her most important person.

“M-Mikado-sama! Please treat me well today!”

“Y-Yeah, likewise...”

As Mikado walked towards his classroom, Rinka arrived next to him, and softly lowered her head. Her beautifully attended black hair shone in the morning sun, her cheeks as luscious as ever. Her uniform showed no wrinkles like always, and it looked like she put a lot of effort in her looks today.

“Now, Mikado-sama, please hug me! Or should I be the one to hug you instead?!” Rinka opened her arms widely as she approached him.

“You sure are motivated...what is that energy even...” Mikado flinched.

“A-Apologies.” Rinka put one palm of her hand on her cheek. “It seems I have gotten a bit too excited. Thinking I would be able to touch Mikado-sama as much as I want, I got too happy.”

“This is just acting, alright? Though I feel bad for basically forcing you to play along with no merit for you...”

“Lord no! Even if it’s just acting, I would love to be lovey-dovey with Mikado-sama! For me, that is the greatest possible reward!”

“I-Is that so...”

Seeing that she was truly delighted, Mikado’s guilt vanished a tad bit. With Rinka’s passionate gaze in one corner of this eye, Mikado glanced over at Kisa’s seat. If he were to be too close to his fiancée, a knife might just come flying his way.

“Seems like Kisa isn’t here yet.”

“Maybe she will be taking the day off today? Presumably because she doesn’t want the two of us loving each other?”

“I’m pretty sure she’d try everything in her might to ruin it for us

though...”

“She hasn’t contacted you either? Maybe via LINE?”

Mikado indeed hadn’t checked his messages yet, and found one of Kisa.

[I’m not feeling good today, so I’ll be taking the day off. Have fun, you two]

It sounded like a calm message, but the skull emote after that spoke against it. Her calm anger was perfectly transmitted. That being said, if Kisa was really taking the day off, the mission should be an easy feat. He didn’t have to worry about Kisa’s affection for him going down the drain, or Rinka getting killed in the process.

“Good morning~! What a wonderful day to take some pictures!”
Kokage carried her camera as she walked towards Mikado.

“I’m counting on you. They have to be perfect so that my father will stop doubting us.”

“No problemo, my preparations are complete! I brought some night vision and sound cameras, so I can perfectly see you even in a cave or underwater!”

“Well...we’re not going diving though...”

They were talking about taking pictures normally at school, so Mikado grew a bit worried when he saw Kokage acting off like that. At the very least, he doubted that showing his father diving pictures with his fiancée would have much of an impact.

Kokage fidgeted, as she fiddled with her camera.

“But...well...I’m the type to get easily embarrassed, so please don’t do anything too perverted...if possible, please keep your clothes on!”

“Nobody said anything about stripping!”

“Eh, we’re not going to take off our clothes?!” Rinka’s eyes opened wide. “I put a lot of effort in my underwear today!”

“Why?! And don’t say that in such a loud voice!”

“I should have told my parents that I would be returning home late...”

“You won’t be home late! You’ll be back before curfew, so don’t worry your parents!”

The girl was getting misunderstanding after misunderstanding, which left Mikado flustered. At the same time, he could hear the silent murmurs from his classmates.

“Hey, did you hear that...?”

“Shizukawa-san picked out underwear for Kitamikado-kun?”

“And she’ll stay the night...?”

“That’s fiances for you, alright...”

“I think I’m going to cry, this is beautiful...”

“Let’s call the baby Bob!”

“No, it’ll be written as Blade of Light, and read as Light Saber!”

The harsh gazes from their surroundings started to hurt. They even started giving the imaginary baby horrible names. To that, Mikado realized the stress and intimidation of having to name the kid who will one day be the guiding light of Japan.

“F-For now, let’s go outside, shall we!”

“Y-Yes, let’s!”

Mikado and the others hurriedly left the classroom.

“For now, let’s have the two of you walk next to each other! I’d like to take an every-day picture of two fiances at school!” Kokage guided them with the camera in hand, with what their acting began.

They walked down the hallway next to each other, passing the students who had just arrived at school. With a distance not too

close, nor too far, they had a normal walking speed. From corner to corner, ten meters at most.

“...We were just walking normally there!”

“it was so natural you didn’t look like fiances at all! You just looked like normal classmates!”

From their distance, it was even unsure if they could clarify as classmates. This would certainly not be enough to satisfy Mikado’s father.

Kokage brought up a proposal.

“Um...how about you hold hands at least? It’ll take down the natural aspect, but as fiances, holding hands shouldn’t be too off...”

“Now that you say it...Okay, one more time, please.”

Mikado wasn’t used to something bold such as holding hands with a girl, but it was required for this operation. Feeling nervous, he carefully reached out to Rinka’s pure white hand with his own.

“Hya?!”

But, Rinka evaded that. When he tried to take it by force, she hid it behind her waist. When he tried to follow that hand, Rinka separated from him.

“Why are you avoiding me?!”

Even Mikado felt hurt, seeing how desperate she was to evade. He even wondered if his fiance actually didn’t like him at all.

However, Rinka just screamed with a beet red face.

“I-In front of other people...h-h-h-holding hands...so shameless!”

“You say that now...? Just a second ago, you were talking about stripping and whatever!”

“I-I was saying that...but holding hands is...too lewd...” Rinka

formed fists in front of her chest, biting her lip.

“What’s with that reaction...”

From the depths of his entrails, Mikado awakened to an odd desire of conquering. Normally, he would be taken aback by Rinka’s attempts of winning him over, her evading him made him desire her even more.

“Enough, just come here.”

A desire to catch her no matter what made him forcefully grab Rinka’s hand.

“Ah.....”

A soft voice leaked out of her mouth, as her slender shoulders shook. Her tender ear lobes were burning red, so was the nape of her neck. Next to Rinka with her expression, looking about to die out of embarrassment, Mikado walked down the hallway again.

Behind him, Mikado could hear Kokage taking pictures. Maybe because of her nervousness, Rinka’s footstep was wobbly, and awkward. She didn’t even try to keep eye contact. Making it barely halfway, her legs gave in and she collapsed towards Mikado, who supported her shoulders.

“...You okay?”

“Y-Yesh...I’m...okay...” Her voice was about to cut out.

The scent of her hair softly yet decisively caused chaos in Mikado’s brain.

—She’s too cute!

Mikado was at a loss. It was weird. He should be in love with Kisa. But for some reason, all of Rinka’s gestures, with the embarrassment mixed in, looked way too adorable. Even her scent was more intense as usual.

“Mikado-sama...? Did something happen...?” Rinka gazed upwards at

Mikado.

That was enough to send Mikado's heart beat off the charts. Her worried gaze resting in her eyes, and her passionate feelings lit a small fire inside his chest.

"N-Not, it's nothing..." He quickly separated his body from Rinka.

He couldn't properly control his emotions. If he wasn't careful, he might just embrace her without thinking. He couldn't do that. He already went off the right path, falling in love with the daughter of the Nanjou Family, and now getting sidetracked off that love with another girl. Hence, he constantly kept himself aware of that, trying not to look at Rinka.

At that time, he heard footsteps approaching them, originating from Mizuki.

"Mikado-kun! You look as cool as always today!"

"You don't care about this being the high school division as always today!"

"Eh, huh? Why should I care about that?! Since you're here, of course I would come visit you! Or should I just switch here for good?"

"Don't be ridiculous..."

Though he didn't want to admit it, Mizuki's sudden energetic appearance helped in calming him down a bit. Still, Mizuki visited this area even more than Mikado's actual first-year Kouhais.

With no embarrassment at all, Mizuki clung to Mikado's arm.

"Oh yeah, listen to this, Mikado-kun! I just sent Onee-chan a message via LINE, but I didn't get any reply! I came here to ask her about that."

"Eh? Didn't Kisa take the day off?"

"No? She wasn't at home at least. Is she not here either?"

“No...”

“Weird~ I wonder where she might be~?”

Mikado and Mizuki tilted their heads in confusion, as Rinka joined in.

“U-Um, maybe she went to the hospital? You can’t use your smartphone in the waiting room after all...”

“Huh...?” Mizuki had a puzzled expression, approaching Rinka.

“Rinka-chan.....?”

“W-What is it...?” Rinka took a step back, clearly feeling uncomfortable.

Mizuki approached her even further, and buried her nose in her chest.

“Sniff...sniff...”

“Why are you sniffing me?!”

Mizuki ran her red tongue along Rinka’s throat.

“Lick...lick...”

“?!?! Why are you licking me now?!”

“Excuse me for a second~!”



Mizuki stuck her head inside Rinka's skirt.

"Kyaaaaaaaaaaaaa?!" Rinka's scream rang out.

She tried her best to shake off Mizuki, but the girl just clung to Rinka's legs, not letting go at all.

"Just as always..." Mikado yet again felt terrified at the nonchalant

attitude of Mizuki.

Even if she was his fiancée, in the off-event that Mikado did this, he would probably be reported for sexual harassment...No, the same would probably happen if he was a girl, but nonetheless, he cursed his brain for being a bit jealous of Mizuki right now.

“Fufufu~ I see, I totally get it now!”

Mizuki came forth from inside Rinka’s skirt again, puffing out her chest in a confident manner. This might be the first time for Mikado to see someone as nonchalant as her.

“What...are you talking about...?” Rinka raised one eyebrow as she glared at Mizuki.

She tightly pulled down the hem of her skirt so that Mizuki couldn’t get inside again, and that sight was rather sensual.

Mizuki pointed at Rinka like a detective.

“No matter how good you can hide it, you won’t be able to deceive me! This scent, taste, panties, there’s no mistaking it! Rinka-chan... No, your identity has already beenmguguh—!”

Rinka swiftly closed off Mizuki’s mouth mid-sentence. No, not just her mouth, but also her nose, not allowing her to breathe, her face turning pale.

“M-Mikado-sama...Can I request some girls’ time with Mizuki-san...?”

“Y-Yeah...?”

Rinka’s face twitched in anger, so Mikado just slightly nodded along. A fearful aura was leaking from Rinka’s body, making it impossible for Mikado to talk against it.

“Mgggh! Mghhhh!”

Mizuki’s eyes were desperately looking for help from Mikado, but she was pulled off down the hallway. At the stairs, their appearances

disappeared. Kokage's face grew pale.

"I-I feel like I heard a 'Mikado-kuuuun, I don't want to die!' scream in there...?"

"P-Probably just your imagination..." Mikado decided to wait as a cold sweat ran down his cheek.

Rinka quickly returned. Without Mizuki.

"We've finished. Mizuki-san decided to go back to the middle school division." Rinka tried to act calm, but she was out of breath.

For just normal girl talk, she was back way too quick.

—Did she silence Mizuki somehow...? But, could Rinka really do that...?

Mikado felt like something was off, but Rinka just flashed a kind smile next to him. The ominous aura emitting from her had vanished completely.

"Let us back to the classroom. Homeroom is about to begin."

"Yeah...?"

Rinka just stopped the conversation, as she headed back to the classroom.

He spent the entire day with Rinka like this. Sharing a textbook while having their desks next to each other, rushing over towards Mikado to talk with him the entire break time. Since Kisa and Mizuki were gone, Rinka could keep Mikado all to herself, and the other classmates didn't want to bother some sweet fiance time, so they didn't approach them either. Watching them, Kokage continued to take pictures.

The operation was moving smoothly. But, it was too smooth, Mikado felt like something was off. For some reason, Kisa didn't intervene at all. Not to mention Mizuki's weird acting before (leaving aside the worries if she actually died or not). And, what exactly was Rina's taste Mizuki mentioned about.

His thoughts were drifting everywhere, even as he cleaned the school building, when Rinka joined him.

“I have borrowed a mowing sickle from the utensil storage shed. This should make it easier.”

“Thanks, that’s a good help.”

Mikado accepted the sickle, and started cutting the grass. Because of the recent rain, weed like this had been growing like crazy.

Rinka sighed.

“How troublesome, all this weed growing here. They should just put gravel here to take away that work.”

“I think it would be a waste. A lot of these grasses are actually pretty useful.”

“Really?” Rinka’s eyes opened wide.

“Yeah, this mugwort can be turned into tempura, or rice-flour dumplings, the chameleon plant can be used for lotion, plantain can be used as medicine for the throat, and the wild rocambole is often used as a substitute for garlic if you boil it. Coffee can be created from dandelions, and when you couldn’t get coffee beans during the war times, you could use it for some tea time. They are all valuable resources, so wasting them would be such a shame.” Mikado shrugged, to which Rinka sent him a gaze of admiration.

“You really have a high survival skill, Mikado-sama. So reliable.” The sight of her crossing her arms in front of her chest, as she looked up, was very lovable.

This left Mikado with even more of a feeling of discomfort.

“Why do you know about my survival skill...?” Mikado asked with a deep voice.

For just a second—a fragment of a second, barely visible to the bare eye—Rinka’s expression stiffened up. But, that disappeared

immediately, as Rinka smiled with her hands together.

“I know everything about Mikado-sama after all.”

Still, it can't be. Mikado has never told Rinka about the Kitamikado survival techniques. Since Rinka didn't have any stalking tendencies, she shouldn't have found out about it herself either. Mikado tried to put a trap in his words, based on this odd feeling.

“That reminds me, back when we were smaller, we often went to catch fish, right.”

“Yes, that sure takes me back. When you made a casket out of grass, I fell for you all over again.”

—Alright, got her!

Mikado screamed in the face of success. She probably tried her best to fit with the story, but Rinka and Mikado didn't have a past like that. It was obvious that she was putting up a lie. On top of that, the memory she was talking about happened with Kisa on the deserted island, where he had revealed his survival skill to her.

Arriving at that thought, Mikado understood why Mizuki was silenced like that, why he hadn't seen Kisa the entire day, and why Rinka's gestures and scent seemed so off from usual.

The Rinka in front of him was actually Kisa in disguise.

—She's probably using some specially made makeup...

With the swindling and strategic skills of the Nanjou Family, it was definitely doable. But, the light reflected in her eyes was overlapping with Rinka's. Slightly teasing, doubtful, and bashfulness residing in it. He assumed that she would try something to hinder today's operation, but Mikado didn't expect her to become Rinka herself.

The real Rinka must be far away from school right now because of some fake urgent business. Even if it's the Nanjou Family, they wouldn't just abduct the young lady of the Shizukawa Family.

“...Mikado-sama? Did something happen?”

Mikado stared at Rinka (Kisa), who tilted her head in slight discomfort.

“...Well, your eyes are so beautiful, I lost myself in them.”

“Eh?! W-Why would you say that out of the blue like that?! I don’t need any flattery!”

“It’s not flattery. They really are beautiful. I can’t take my eyes away from them.”

“T-Those words are wasted on me...” Rinka (Kisa) put both her hands on her burning red cheeks.

Her eyes were watery as well. Just as expected, her reaction was different from the actual Rinka. The real one would have accepted Mikado’s compliment more honestly. But, Kisa had lower tolerance towards that, which is why she seems this awkward.

—This...is a chance!

Mikado thought. Right now, no matter how much he praised Rinka (Kisa), no matter how bold of an approach he tried, it wouldn’t count as a show of affection towards Kisa. Kisa right now was [Rinka]. With this, he could inflict as much damage as he wanted on Kisa, without having to fear the repercussions. It was a pure one-sided...no, bonus game.

“Once home room is over, can you come with me to the materials room?”

“Eh, why?” Rinka (Kisa) asked a bit awkwardly.

“Remember, we have to film the kissing scene with Kawaraya, right?”

“K-Kiss scene?! Y-Yes, that’s right! That’s perfectly right!” Rinka (Kisa) almost jumped at Mikado.

Yet again, another action the Yamato Nadeshiko known as Rinka wouldn’t do.

“Well...it’s actually just an excuse so that the two of us can spend

some time together.”

“You want to be...together with me...?”

Mikado decisively approached Rinka (Kisa) to a level where she was pushed against the wall of the school building. Her tender shoulders were tensed up. Not using any name, Mikado said the words he wanted Kisa to hear.

“Yeah. I want to spend time with you, just the two of us. There’s things we can’t do here after all...Will you come?”

Rinka (Kisa) furiously nodded along with a tomato-red face.

Distant thunder could be heard. During home room class, the clear skies suddenly started to get reigned by dark clouds. A stuffy heat followed, with lighting visible here and there outside the window.

Though it was rather unfortunate for the photoshoot, it was the perfect atmosphere for the battle with Kisa. Having taken her to a material room in one corner of the school building, he went through the plan of attack inside his head, and mentally prepared himself.

In the opening of a mountain of documents, he could see the lens flickering, meaning that Kokage was on stand-by. Although he wanted to use this opportunity for the bonus game, he couldn’t forget about the ‘Passionate two-shot of Rinka and Mikado’, the main reason for the entire day.

The inside of the room smelled moldy, and it was pretty dark. Mikado used the switch on the wall to put the lights on.

“Could you close the blinds? I don’t want anybody looking inside.”

“W-What are we doing that nobody should be seeing us...?” Rinka (Kisa) threw Mikado a reproachful gaze.

“The same as usual?”

“The same as usual?!” Rinka (Kisa) was dumbfounded, and Mikado yet again grew aware of his own superior position.

These words just now had the risk to lower Kisa's affection towards him. However, he had to make sure that he really was dealing with Kisa. He couldn't risk pulling an approach like that to the actual Rinka.

"I was just joking. For some reason, I don't have the confidence to hold back my desires today."

"Are you that hungry...?"

"I'm not talking about hunger!"

"Maybe you should take a nap in the nurse's office..."

"I'm not sleepy either! You should know what I'm talking about, right?!"

"Ugh..." Rinka (Kisa)'s face turned beet red.

This was the proof that she understood perfectly well what Mikado was talking about.

"Just to make sure, right?"

"Y-Yes..."

The two split the work to pull down the blinds on the windows, as well as the ones next to the floor. Not even a few minutes had passed, as they succeeded in sealing off this room. Kokage swallowed her breath, erasing her entire existence.

Rinka (Kisa) took some distance from Mikado, carefully observing him. Naturally, Mikado felt the same. But, he had to follow through now. He tried to control his beating hard as best as possible, and tightly hugged Kisa's body.

"H-Hold on, Mikado?! Sama..." Caught in his arms, Rinka (Kisa) panicked.

That resistance was yet again too lovable, making him grasp her even tighter.

“I always...wanted to do this...”

“...” Rinka (Kisa)’s body shivered at Mikado’s heartfelt murmur.

“Today, you’re just way too cute. Once there’s an opening, you come towards me like a small puppy, you want to be by my side, your face is blushing, it’s too much...”

“T-Too much...” An embarrassed voice leaked from her white throat.

“That reaction. If you make that face, I just can’t help but want to touch you. But, there’s other people with us, so I can’t. Our circumstances aren’t that easy after all...”

Just slightly, he put meaning in his words only Kisa would be able to understand. Although it was a scheme, a chance to one-sidedly strike her down, Kisa’s entire existence was the ultimate weapon against Mikado. Being this close to the person he had fallen for, Mikado’s reasoning was equally slowly clipping away. If he didn’t land the final hit before that, he would be done in first.

Mikado approached Kisa’s lips with his mouth.

“That’s why...Just for now...let me stay with my most beloved you.”

“...!!! Please stop this!” Rinka (Kisa) pushed away Mikado with both her hands.

Because of the sudden physical impact, Mikado staggered. He was truly afraid if he had actually grossed her out with his words.

“If you stay any closer to this filthy woman, your soul will be sullied, Mikado-sama!”

“Filthy?!”

“Yes, very much so! I am the kind of woman to pick up trash off the side of the road, and eat it! Be it empty bottles or cans, I gulp it down with no restraint!”

“You’re not that kind of human, are you?!”

“Yes, I doubt you can even call me human anymore...I am nothing more but a creature in human skin, bringing misfortune. Very much not fit to be together with Mikado-sama...I am the world’s greatest trash!” Rinka (Kisa) put one hand on her chest, as she spit out unreasonable words with her chin lifted up.

This might be Mikado’s first time to see someone call themselves trash in such an arrogant way. Most likely, because of his attack on Kisa, she is trying to ruin Rinka’s image that he has.

“That is why, instead of wasting your time with me, feel free to confess your love to Nanjou-san! She is always shining brightly, and the perfect match for you! Like a fairy, a fairy of love!”

—This turned into an absolute mess...

Mikado let out a sigh. Only Kisa would be able to call herself a fairy of love like this. Her confidence was as strong as ever at the very least.

“Calm down for a second. You aren’t filthy or anything...”

“Don’t come any closer!”

Mikado tried to soothe her, but Rinka (Kisa) had her hair standing as she took a step back. Then, a heavy thunder rang out, and the lights in the room went out.

“A blackout?!”

The room was wrapped in darkness.

“Kyaaa?!”

Kisa’s shriek rang out, with the flashy sound of her tripping, documents falling like an avalanche. Because of the darkness, Mikado couldn’t tell what was happening. He just ran towards the loud sound.

“You okay, Kisa?!”

His hand touched something soft. So that Kisa wouldn’t suffer any

injuries, Mikado protected her in his arms.

“I-I’m fine. I’m not hur—Eh?” Kisa’s body twitched.

At the same time, Mikado realized his mistake. Even in this darkness, Rinka (Kisa)’s face was clearly visible as she looked up at Mikado.

“Y-Y-You...realized...?”

“No, not at all. I have no idea what you are talking about.” Mikado shook his head.

“Lies! You definitely realized! You did, and decided to tease me, right?! You enjoyed my reactions, didn’t you! You’re the worst!” Her face looked like she’d die of embarrassment, hitting Mikado’s chest with her tender arms.

Because she was this flustered, she couldn’t put any strength in it, just making her look cute. That being said, Mikado received the most damage today.

“N-No, I wasn’t teasing you, that’s the game, right?! ...Did I get you flustered?”

“Of course not—?!” Kisa let out a shriek, hiding her face inside Mikado’s chest.

Apparently, she couldn’t bear to show Mikado her burning red face. That being said, being clung to in darkness like this left Mikado without any possible reaction. Since it was revealed that he had caught onto her scheme, he couldn’t broadly hug her again. Still, coldly pushing her away was not an option either.

“U-Um...what should we do now...?”

Reflexively, he sought help from Kisa herself.

“...We can only go along the operation, right?” Kisa muttered, still inside Mikado’s chest.

“Along the operation?”

“A-Again...w-we have to kiss...so that Kawaraya-san can take a picture, right?” Kisa’s nails cut into Mikado’s shirt.

“Y-Yeah, you’re right.”

“I-I am right. As of right now, I am looking exactly like Shizukawa-san, so finishing the photoshoot now...would be the fastest.”

Was it just Mikado’s excessive confidence that he heard a wish of Kisa wanting him to kiss her instead of Rinka? Did she put in all this effort to look like her so that Rinka couldn’t steal Mikado’s first kiss? Mikado couldn’t help to think like that, his head spinning in confusion. He couldn’t help getting his hopes up. After all, Kisa’s eyes, even in darkness, shone bright with desire. Disregarding what she felt, Mikado himself desired her lips.

“Alright...”

“...Yeah.”

Mikado softly grabbed the girl’s chin, bringing his face closer. Normally, the girl would never keep quiet as time went on, but she had perfectly gotten quiet, her eyes closed as she waited.

Her shoulders were shaking ever so slightly, but she still didn’t dare to run away. Mikado was entranced at the sight of her, at her dampened lips. He would be able to kiss her, unrelated to the game. She gave her permission, and accepted it.

Mikado’s heart was beating at an alarming speed. Kisa’s own chest was moving up and down heavily as well. He had completely forgotten about this being a part of the photoshoot.

Mikado brought his lips closer to Kisa—

“Eh”



His lips touched her lovable forehead.

Kisa's shocked voice.

The sound of the camera clicking, followed by a blinding flash.

Having finished her job, Kokage let out a sigh.

Everything should have gone well, and yet Kisa looked dissatisfied.

“Why...not on the lips?”

“Why are you asking...?” Mikado threw the question back at her.

“N-Nevermind! This is all, right?! I’m going home!”

Kisa opened the door, running away almost in a panic. He heard the sound of her tripping over, followed by a cute shriek. Peace finally returned to the room, and Mikado’s heart had calmed down. In this room, still filled with this sweet scent, Mikado muttered.

“As if...I could tell you...”

It wasn’t even related to the game, or him being too embarrassed. He wanted his first kiss to be with the real Kisa, and not in disguise.

Epilogue

The location was the Kitamikado Residence.

The dining room was illuminated by a tranquil morning light, as Mikado enjoyed his rice. Only the sound of tableware being used, and soft footsteps of their servants ran out. It was less than a normal dinner, and more like a holy ritual.

The wife of the head put down her vermillion-colored bowl on the table, and asked.

“Let me ask, Mikado-san. Is everything going along nicely with Rinka-san?”

“Of course. For the sake of the Kitamikado Family, I am trying my hardest to please her.”

A bit of rice got stuck in this throat for a second, but he calmly answered the question. They couldn't catch on that he was nervous. Everything had to be moving smoothly.

The wife narrowed her eyes.

“Not just for the sake of the Kitamikado Family, but also for the two of you as well. Hit each other more with your affection. If needed, you can use whatever room in this residence.”

“What do you mean by that...”

“Your father has been more...aggressive, see. He was like a hungry and starving beast.”

“I didn't need any stories like that!”

As an adolescent boy like Mikado, receiving lovey-dovey (more or less) stories of his parents was not a good way to start the morning. He wished they would shut these stories away in their memories, for eternity.

The head showed a calm smile.

“No need to fret, there will be no problem. Although we might not be seeing it, Mikado has been enjoying himself with the young Shizukawa lady.”

“Is that so?”

“Indeed. He had a secret rendezvous with her at school.”

“W-Why do you know that...?!” Mikado faked surprise.

It was the reaction the most natural for this situation, necessary to clear away the head's doubts. If he realized that these sources had been under control of Mikado himself, all their effort would go to waste.

The head's mouth relaxed with a satisfied smile.

“Parents know everything about their children. We have to make sure that you carry the Kitamikado name with honor, never embarrassing yourself.”

“Y-Yeah...I know...I'll keep it in mind.” Mikado bowed down, as he struck a victory pose inside his heart.

Even with the disguise of Kisa, the pictures for the operation were a success. Mikado's father believed him. As long as the head believes in the credibility of Kokage's sources, Mikado will always be a step ahead of him

—I won't let you bother us during the love game any more, Father.

Mikado muttered. as he stared at the don of the political world.

Inside her own, dimly-lit room, closed off with the storm shutter, Kokage was gazing at the light of the monitor. Shown on it were several pictures, with Mikado as the motive. Additionally, some of them with Kisa on it. Though it was a bit troublesome that Kisa was disguised as Rinka, a normal outsider shouldn't be able to tell.

“Ummm, these pictures were taken pretty badly, so I'll delete them.

Now there's only a few left!"

Kokage moved the mouse, reorganizing a large number of pictures. Since she took as many as she could, her drive was getting full with pictures. She already sent the perfect ones to the head of the Kitamikado Family, promised to give Rinka a few pictures of a good selection as well, so she had to pick out some good ones.

"This is where his expression gets really lively...I think."

A slideshow reflected the best shots she had taken.

When he was walking down the hallway with Rinka (Kisa).

When he was embracing Rinka (Kisa).

When he kissed Rinka (Kisa) on the forehead.

Gathered into one folder, they were all pictures with Rinka (Kisa). Even if she did her best on them, she couldn't send these to Rinka herself. She wasn't present during school on that day after all.

For some reason, Kokage felt a bit gloomy as she gazed at the pictures. It was a weird sensation, like she had gulped down some bitter medicine, and the taste wouldn't disappear. They should be precious pictures of that day, a possible ace in the hole, but she felt like deleting them. She didn't want to see Mikado blushing because of Rinka (Kisa) on the screen.

"Huh...? Why...do I...?"

Is this what you would call jealousy? But, towards who? And, why was she jealous in the first place? She kept thinking, but didn't come up with a response.

"Uu...I'm starting to feel hot..."

An overheat occurred, and she collapsed on the carpet.

"When did Mikado-sama kiss me like that...?"

Lunch break, in the courtyard.

Rinka asked in a suspicious manner, troubling Mikado with a response.

“W-What are you talking about...?”

“My parents have shown me a picture. It shows me, no doubt, but I have no memory of it...Was that someone else...?”

“Well...we actually asked someone to stand in...right, Kisa?!”

“Eh?! Y-Yes! Since you didn’t come to school that day, Shizukawasan, I asked the best actor in the world as a stand-in! Thanks to that, we managed to take a perfect picture!” Kisa tried to give a proper add-on after suddenly being pulled into the conversation.

“Is that so...?” Rinka slightly tilted her head, not perfectly satisfied.

At the same time, Kisa and Mikado desperately nodded along. Kisa’s face was beet red, and Mikado also felt his cheeks being hot. He couldn’t exactly say he kissed Kisa like that. The Mikado back then had been incredibly bold. Just by remembering it, he found trouble breathing calmly.

Mizuki crossed her arms behind her waist, voicing complaint.

“I would have been fine as a stand-in though~ I knew I could have pulled it off perfectly!”

“The size wouldn’t have fit you anyway! And you’re in a different school year!”

“Eh? So the actor was someone in our school year? Who was it?”

“W-Who cares about that! It wasn’t me at least!”

Kisa let out a scream, hiding her tomato-red face with both her hands. Mizuki watched that, giggling. Rinka on her part gave a dubious gaze at Kisa, but she gave a sigh of resignation, just softly smiling.

“Well, this time, I’ll leave it at that. I have greatly benefited from this as well after all.”

“Benefit...?” Kisa asked, greatly interested.

“Yes. My parents have seen how close Mikado-sama and I are, so they offered me to go on a trip with just Mikado-sama.”

“Huh?!” Kisa jumped up, giving Rinka a provocative gaze.

“The head of the Kitamikado Family has given us his blessings as well for this pre-honeymoon. Basically, I can be together with Mikado-sama the entire day...during dinner, the bath, and even during our sleep, I can taste Mikado-sama as much as I want!”

“T-T-Taste as much as you want...do you know no shame as a woman?!”

“Why would I, I am his future wife after all! Mikado-sama’s parents even told me not to come home until we have made grandchildren for them.”

“These people are just...” Mikado sighed in disbelief.

He knew they wanted to move the marriage forward as quickly as possible, but they had to take some limits as well.

On top of that, showing their relationship to their families to this level, he couldn’t exactly decline this trip either.

“Mikado-sama! Let us try our best and make children!” Rinka put her hands together, looking up at Mikado with faintly flushed cheeks.

She did look adorable like that, but that made things even more troublesome. Mikado was unsure if he could really withstand a continuous attack of a beauty like her during an entire day with just the two of them. And apparently, Kisa and Mizuki felt the same way.

“T-This is bad, Onee-chan! Mikado-kun might get gulped up!”

“Something...I have to do something...! I know, I have to destroy the earth...!”

The sisters put their heads together, whispering secretly.

And thus, the love game went to the next stage.

Afterword

So warm, so insanely hot. Please, somebody save me. I know, I'll go to the antarctic. Once you read this afterword, please don't go looking for me.

Thanks to your continued support, the love game has reached volume three, as the heated war between the heroines rages on...Is this really fine I wonder? The heroines have really been playing dirty, so is this really fine?

It totally is! At least according to my dear readers and the publisher, so I can't be thankful enough. I have received a lot of pressure in terms of 'The heroines have to be pure and cute girls', but in my personal opinion, as long as they don't have bad personalities, they can be cute in their own way.

Lies make a woman charming, is often being said, or even mysterious girls have their own attraction, and everything sounds so erotic! Now imagine them loving someone so deeply that they would bring the world to ruin in demon lord fashion, yet only being kind to that certain someone. Maybe even some tsundere slapping, or yandere stalking as she goes through your own room to look for pictures, it all sounds so nice (personal preferences leaking here).

Leaving that aside, I really like con games, so putting this into your average romcom, I'm 2000% happier. I'm even putting this work out with fetishes of mine involved, so I'm counting the days until somebody might tell me off.

Now then, my responsible editor Usami-sama, everyone from GA Bunko's publishing department, everyone from the distribution. Thank you very much for working your hardest and helping me in bringing out this book.

After that, I want to thank kakao-sensei for these incredibly cute, and also erotic illustrations. The cover illustration is just...crazy levels of crazy (an author lacking the right words, imagine that).The skin color

just looks so...lively, squishy, adorable! Thank you very much!

Finally, to all the readers who have continued to support me. Thank you very much. Please look forward to reading more of these cute, and also dangerous heroines in the future!

PS: I really want to take a trip outside the atmosphere to cool off.

The 31st of July, 2016. Amano Seiju.

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